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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

No. 1411

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 20-26 OCTOBER

20-22 October

LD222321 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 20-22 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at end of each item.

20 October

After completion of grain threshing the harvest is over in Altay. The harvest was difficult, a severe summer drought was followed by 2 weeks of continuous autumn rains. In the west of the kray crops were stunted and damaged, in eastern and hilly areas they were flattened by wind and rain. Despite this the harvest was above last year's over the whole kray. Sale of grain to the state is continuing. (1100 GMT)

21 October

Uzbek farmers have fulfilled the plan for the sale to the state of vegetables, fruit and cucurbits, reports the USSR CSD. Farms of Tajikistan and Moldavia are close to finishing plan targets. In all, almost 16 million tons of produce from industrial gardens and orchards has been sold; that is more than for the same period last year. The center of vegetable harvesting now is the oblasts of the Russian Federation: Vologda, Gorkiy, Saratov, Moscow and Leningrad. Cabbage, carrots, turnips, beets and radishes are being dispatched from here to the country's towns and workers' settlements. Our correspondent notes that this year a plentiful yield of green crops has been obtained: parsley, dill, celery and lettuce. This produce is perishable and therefore it is particularly important to store it as quickly as possible. Incidentally, as the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Economy reports, this work is being done now generally quite well around the country. (0200 GMT)

Collective and state farms of Kazakhstan today completed stocking-in of seeds. Winter crops in the republic cover an area of 2,200,000 hectares. Winter fallows have been ploughed on an area of 15 million hectares, which is almost 80 percent of the plan. (1400 GMT)

The agricultural workers of three more oblasts in Kazakhstan have completed their socialist pledges for the sale of grain to the state: from the collective and state farms of Dzhezkazgan Oblast 99,000 tons of grain has been received; from those of the Kzyl-Orda Oblast--386,000 tons, including 366,000 tons of rice; and from those of Chimkent Oblast--563,000 tons of grain, which is 187,000 tons more than the plan. The farms of these oblasts have ensured their own supplies of seed for the grain crops of next year's harvest. (1630 GMT)

22 October

The agricultural workers of Astrakhan Oblast have won a major victory: 918,000 tons of vegetables and cucurbits have arrived at the procurement centers and processing enterprises from collective and state farms, or 58,000 tons above the plan. The oblast's farms have fulfilled the plan for the deliveries of vegetables to the country's towns and industrial centers. The sale of vegetables to the state is continuing. (0800 GMT)

The plan for the sale of sugar beets to the state has been fulfilled by the agricultural workers of Belgorod Oblast: 3,353,000 tons of sugar beets have arrived at procurement centers and processing enterprises. (0800 GMT)

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast has completed the harvesting of grain corn. Despite some drought, the harvest is good--more than 30 quintals per hectare. During the first year of the current 5-year plan period, the harvest was 13 quintals less per hectare. The improvement is due to the introduction of industrial methods and the use of large quantities of fertilizer and herbicides. The area under corn is to be increased further, to achieve a harvest of 1 million tons per annum. (1630 GMT)

Belorussian farms have completed the autumn ploughing, 10 days earlier than last year. About 2.5 million hectares have been ploughed, including newly reclaimed marshland. (1630 GMT)

23-24 October

LD260322 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 23-24 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

23 October

Nine hundred thousand tons of cotton have been delivered to procurement points in Turkmenistan to date. (0430 GMT)

Sugar-beet lifting has been completed in Kirovabad Oblast. An area of 130,000 hectares of the crop has been harvested. Each hectare has produced a yield of 40-50 quintals. (1400 GMT)

Ukrainian farms completing sugar beet harvest. Local agriculture official praises their efforts. To date, over 40 million tons of beets have been delivered in the republic. (1600 GMT)

Omsk Oblast autumn plowing is coming to an end. More than 1.5 million hectares have already been plowed. (2300 GMT)

24 October

Moscow Oblast farmers fulfilled their socialist pledges on sale of potatoes to the state. They delivered to procurement points a total of 775,000 tons, which is more than planned by 48,000 tons. (0304 GMT)

Fallows plowing is being completed in Omsk Oblast, for the early crop sowing next year. More than 1.5 million hectares have been prepared. (1000 GMT)

In Mordovia the Yelenkovskiy Rayon has met its annual plan for all forms of agricultural production. The autonomous republic as a whole has produced over 50,000 tons of above-plan grain, 34,000 tons of sugar beets and large amounts of potatoes and milk. Thanks to raised quality, Mordovian farms will receive about 15 million rubles extra. (1200 GMT)

The last combines today left the beet and potato fields of Altay. The kray has now completely finished harvesting these crops. Over 400,000 quintals of root crops have been sent to the reception points and the first 13,000 tons of sugar has been made from the beets harvested. The potato harvest is not bad. All towns and working settlements in the kray have been fully supplied with potatoes for the winter period while farms have laid in the necessary quantity of seed potatoes. (1630 GMT)

25-26 October

LD270717 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 25-26 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at end of each item.

25 October

Altay: Harvesting of beets and potatoes has been completed. More than 400,000 quintals of beets have been delivered to reception points. (0100 GMT)

Cotton-growers of Uzbekistan have gathered in 4 million tons of raw cotton. The target is 6 million tons. (0530 GMT)

26 October

Bryansk Oblast farmers have fulfilled their potato sales pledges, delivering 749,000 tons. (1100 GMT)

Kazakh farmers have completed mass sowing of winter crops in optimum time. They occupy about 2.3 million hectares, almost 250,000 hectares over the plan. (1300 GMT)

The country has taken in 6.8 million tons of cotton. The figure was reported to a Radio Moscow correspondent at the Central Board of Statistics. The entire cotton crop is estimated at 9.4 million tons. This is quite a large figure. This year the cotton ripened somewhat later than usual because of unfavorable weather. Harvesting in general is nearing completion in the country. The Soviet Union has grown a fairly good harvest of grain, sugar beets, flax, potatoes and vegetables. (1400 GMT)

Good cotton harvests have been obtained in southeast Turkmenia. Azerbaijani farmers have already procured 800,000 metric tons of the 820,000 metric tons of cotton pledged. Winter crops have been sown on 38.4 million hectares in east Siberia. (1800 GMT)

CSO: 1824/80

UZBEK SSR 1983 COTTON PRODUCTION OPERATIONS DESCRIBED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 13 Sep 83 p 1

/Article by A. Uzilevskiy, Uzbek SSR: "The Cotton Growers Undergo An Examination"/

/Excerpts/ The busy harvest campaign on the cotton fields of Uzbekistan is commencing with hand-picking of the crop on turn-around strips, on small checkplots and those unsuited for machine operations and on seed sowings. At the same time, defoliation of the plants is being carried out on tracts designated for mechanized harvesting.

The mass mechanized harvesting of cotton will commence during the second half of September. Meanwhile the tempo of the hand-picking work is intensifying with each passing day. The first 190,000 tons of raw cotton have been delivered to the scales. All of it was accepted as being of 1st class quality.

All of the rayons in Surkhan-Darya Oblast are participating in the harvesting and delivery to the state of fine-fibred varieties of raw cotton. At the present time, during the final stage of the harvest campaign, the results from having introduced the group contract method are readily apparent. Approximately 1,000 individuals are today working on seed checkplots at the 40 Let Oktyabrya Kolkhoz in Termezskiy Rayon.

The present harvest campaign differs noticeably from previous ones. The raised temperatures during the second half of the summer exerted an adverse effect in a number of oblasts with regard to the formation of the crop on the middle layer and the farms are striving to compensate for the shortfall in yield by obtaining full-value bolls from the upper layer of the bushes. But late cotton as a rule must be harvested during the season of rainfall and cold snaps and this can cause harm to the quality of the raw cotton.

Another feature of this season -- the conversion of the entire republic over to the new state standard for evaluating quality and for paying for the cotton accepted. Last year, procurements of the crop were carried out in accordance with the new GOST /state standard/ in three oblasts -- Bukhara, Namangan and Surkhan-Darya. The additional profit earned by farms in these oblasts for products sold amounted respectively to 60, 26 and 106 million rubles. The new

standard does not provide for those benefits which existed for many years for hopper raw cotton. Henceforth the payment for it will be carried out on the basis of uniform indicators for the quality of the fibre, ripeness and external appearance. The raised payments for 1st, 2d and 3d industrial grades are stimulating the farms into supplying better quality products. And cotton harvested prior to the onset of inclement weather is just this type of cotton.

The brigade harvest method -- experience tested over the past several years -- is an important factor for solving the problem. Unfortunately, not all of the republic's procurement points are prepared for a brigade determination of the quality of the raw cotton. On the whole, improvements have taken place in the work being performed by enterprises of the republic's Ministry of the Cotton Cleaning Industry, but as yet 223 procurement points have still not been equipped with cleaning units.

The present season is distinguished by recurrent cotton strain changing work. Compared to 1980, the sowings of the principal medium-fibre variety have been reduced by 50 percent and the areas used for new and more wilt-resistant varieties expanded. Four new cotton varieties have been regionalized in 1983. Promising varieties characterized by fibre of a raised quality have been tested on an area in excess of 200,000 hectares. The hand-picking work is being carried out mainly on fields which are not subject to defoliation.

Roughly 3,300 mechanized detachments have been formed in the republic for carrying out mechanized harvesting work. These detachments have at their disposal 35,000 cotton harvesting units, mechanical loaders, pick-up attachments, thrashed heap cleaners, more than 100,000 wagons for the bulk transporting of the crop and tens of thousands of tractors. New equipment will be used for the harvest -- a large batch of cotton harvesting machines having pneumatic pick-up attachments and additional cleaners and machines for harvesting the seed raw cotton by layers and for harvesting fine-fibred varieties.

This year's crop involves difficult labor. And the most important task of the day is that of harvesting it in a timely manner. An adequate number of aircraft of agricultural aviation and ground operated dusters and sprayers are available for carrying out the artificial defoliation of the cotton plants on farms throughout the republic. However, according to the data for 12 September, less than 500,000 hectares have been treated with defoliants although the plan called for 1.6 million. One half of the areas treated are located in Tashkent Oblast. Here use was made of all 60 of the aircraft made available and also of approximately 700 ground treatment units. During a day's time, approximately 20,000 hectares of sowings were defoliated on the farms and by the end of the first 10 days in September the defoliation process had been completed on all of the cotton fields in the oblast. Thus it will be possible during the middle of the month to open up the front for work by the entire cotton harvesting pool. The Tashkent farmers plan to harvest 80 percent of their crop using machines.

Yet the defoliation work has only just commenced in Andizhan, Namangan, Fergana and Khorezm Oblasts. Here this operation, which ensures a front of work for machine harvesting, has been carried out on only 2-5 percent of the

areas. Those leaders and specialists are to be reproached who, despite advice and the great amount of experience accumulated in Uzbekistan, are very slow in carrying out the mass deployment of the harvesting operations.

The republic is successfully coping with the state plan for the production and procurements of grain, vegetable and fruit crops, potatoes, silk cocoons, animal husbandry products and feed. But the chief examination for the year -- the harvesting of the cotton. A great amount of work has been carried out in Uzbekistan this year aimed at ensuring that a good harvest of fine quality "white gold" is obtained.

7026
CSO: 1824/071

UZBEK SSR COTTON HARVEST PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 12 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by A. Uzilevskiy, Uzbek SSR: "Autumn and Cotton"]

[Excerpts] The leading farms and hundreds of brigades are already shipping cotton in behalf of their obligations. The leaders among the oblasts are Tashkent, Khorezm and Bukhara. Here the cotton procurement plans have been fulfilled by two thirds. Emphasis is placed upon the fact that the Tashkent machine operators are unloading up to 70 percent of the crop from the hoppers of their machines. The highest daily increases are being produced by farms in the Karakalpak ASSR and in Khorezm, Dzhizak and Syr-Darya Oblasts. The machine harvesting of cotton in each of the above areas amounts to 9,000-10,000 tons daily.

I visited the fields in the Dzhizak Steppe region. This region is included in the republic's summary and, according to the data for 10 October, it has supplied the state with only 40 percent of the amount of cotton planned for sale. Nine tenths of the oblast's farms are virgin land farms and do not have an adequate labor reserve for organizing the manual harvesting of the crop. Everything here is dependent upon the use of machines. Yet the work is being adversely affected by deviations from the accepted agricultural practices, disruptions in the schedules and by poor quality chopping and defoliation of the plants.

On the whole, the oblast has favorable conditions at its disposal for intensifying the tempo of the harvest process. The plenum of the oblast's party committee, during which a speech was delivered by Candidate Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and 1st Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Sh.R. Rashidov, viewed this factor as being an urgent task of the day. Having taken note of the successes achieved by the oblast's workers in developing their productive forces, Comrade Rashidov at the same time emphasized the special responsibility of the communists and all labor collectives for the final results of this current year, a decisive year as is well known insofar as the successes of the five-year plan on the whole are concerned.

Certainly, irrigated virgin land provides a generous return. Over the past 3 years, more than 1 million tons of Dzhizak cotton and in excess of 700,000 tons

of food products have been produced. The state capital investments were repaid with interest. But the return being realized from a hectare of irrigated land must constantly increase. All of the conditions required for this are available. In Dzhizak Oblast, for example, every 1,000 hectares are "armed" so to speak with 24 cotton harvesting machines, compared to an average figure of only 18 for the republic. It also has greater amounts of other types of harvesting equipment, tractors and transport vehicles. The procurement and cotton ginning network has been expanded. The summary for 10 October reveals that every 8 out of 10 tons delivered to the procurement points by farms in Dzhizak Oblast were harvested with the aid of machines.

This level should never be considered as adequate for virgin land farms. There are still hundreds of harvesting units that have not been moved out onto the fields and each operating unit harvests only 3 tons of raw cotton daily. In short, nothing is preventing the kolkhozes and sovkhozes from increasing their daily harvest by 3,000-3,500 tons. Recently the virgin land workers have received assistance from detachments of students from Tashkent. They have been delivering 1,500 tons of select cotton to the scales on a daily basis. This will make it possible to raise the daily yield to 15,000-16,000 tons next week.

Such a rate is fully within the capability of the Dzhizak Oblast cotton growers. It has been achieved by many harvesting detachments in Oktyabr'skiy, Mirzachulskiy, Dustlikskiy and Arnasayskiy Rayons.

Brigades of veterans, housewives and students have been created in many rayons and they are delivering thousands of quintals of the white resource to the scales on a daily basis.

For a true farmer, cotton becomes more expensive as the hour approaches for shipping it to the receiving points. This is why weediness and a high moisture content cannot be tolerated and why it is important for it to be resorted at each farm and in each brigade. Faulty evaluations of the crop as it is delivered represents still another aspect of the problem. This is the responsibility not only of the farm and rayon leaders but also of the procurement specialists themselves. Unfortunately, the situation is just the opposite in some rayons in Dzhizak Oblast. At the Dustlik Cotton Plant, for example, according to the date for 6 October, not one ton of machine harvested raw cotton was accepted as being of 1st class quality. At the same time, this important indicator covers 45 percent of the cotton for the republic as a whole. Almost one half of the cotton is being accepted as 1st class, again we emphasize, 1st class! Thereafter the hand-picked raw cotton must be sun-dried and the hopper cotton processed in drying-ginning departments prior to being stored in bales.

The state has accepted 3 million tons of cotton from the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Uzbekistan, the same quantity which must be harvested over the next few weeks. The desire to solve this task successfully was confirmed in a very strong manner in a recently published appeal by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR addressed to all of the republic's workers -- to participate actively in the campaign to obtain more cotton during the third

year of the five-year plan and to fully satisfy the country's requirements for this most valuable product from the irrigated fields.

This is not the first year that the Uzbek farmers are encountering and have to overcome difficulties. Again this year: 6 million tons of the "white gold" will be delivered to the scales.

7026
CSO: 1824/071

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

REQUIREMENTS FOR MACHINE, MANUAL COTTON HARVESTING REVIEWED

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Sep 83 p 1

/Article: "Higher Rates for the Harvest!"/

/Text/ Despite the tradition of many years standing, the first news regarding the commencement of the harvest work came not from the southern part of the republic but rather from Bukhara Oblast. Commencing with the very first days of the harvest campaign, the experts in this oblast seized the leadership in the competition. The high rates achieved by the farms in Bukhara Oblast are the result of the skill displayed by expert hands in carrying out the manual harvesting work and the complete mobilization of the human resources in behalf of the harvest campaign.

The harvest rates are increasing in intensity. On 12 September a report was received from Surkhan-Darya Oblast indicating that the "blue ships" had moved out onto the cotton fields of the Tashkent Sovkhoz in Leninyulskiy Rayon. During the daylight period, mechanic-drivers D. Yuldashev and B. Dustnazarov each harvested 10 tons of raw cotton.

Machine harvesting work is now being carried out on many farms in Kashka-Darya, Khorezm, Tashkent and other oblasts. But the intensity of the harvest work will increase even more when all 36,000 of the harvesting units are operating out on the fields.

The chief concern at the present time -- to complete the defoliation work. All of the conditions required for carrying out this work are present. It is nearing completion on farms in Tashkent, Dzhizak, Syr-Darya and other oblasts and in the Kara-Kalpak ASSR. At the same time, as emphasized in the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, there are still many kolkhozes and sovkhozes which are displaying no haste in carrying out the defoliation work.

Experience testifies to the fact that the Ipatovo method for organizing the harvest work produces the best results. And use should be made of this method at the present time, as pointed out in the decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR entitled "On Preparing the Logistical Base of Enterprises of the Ministry of the Cotton Cleaning Industry and the Republic's Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes for Harvesting and Procuring the 1983 Cotton Crop." By employing this method

in a creative manner for harvesting their cotton, many farms throughout the republic are gathering in their principal crop within a matter of days. Over the past several years, for example, the farms in Galabinskiy Rayon have been completing their planned harvest in just 14-15 days. And this season they plan to complete the work in the same amount of time. For the oblast as a whole, as defined during the Plenum of the Tashkent Oblast Party Committee, the plan for cotton procurements will be fulfilled in just 20 working days.

This season other rayons plan to follow the initiative set by the workers in Galabinskiy, Bukinskiy and Pakhtachiyskiy Rayons and harvest the cotton using their own resources, with no assistance being provided by city-dwellers and students. The obligation of those who initiated this movement and their followers -- to show by personal example the practicality and effectiveness of harvesting the raw cotton using their own resources, such that in the future other farms may follow this same path.

In recent years we have observed a trend towards a reduction in the quality of the fibre. A new system has been introduced this season for accepting and paying for the cotton. Earlier, machine harvested cotton was accepted according to two groups. Cotton harvested by machine and selected following the machines was assigned to the first group and regardless of quality it was paid for according to the zonal procurement price for the first industrial grade. Raw cotton harvested by special machines and selected following cleaning of the fields was assigned to the second group and paid for in accordance with the price for the fourth grade. The new GOST /state standard/ stipulates that machine harvested raw cotton, depending upon its ripeness and external appearance, is subdivided into four industrial grades and paid for according to the price established for each one of them. The prices for the industrial grades are the same for both manual and machine harvested cotton. Hence greater requirements are now being imposed upon the driver-mechanics. The harvesting machines must now be operated by true masters of their work. The working units of a machine must all be properly adjusted and all of the grease boxes and seals in good working order. Each incident of cotton being unloaded onto the ground must be viewed as a ChP /extraordinary event/.

Greater requirements are also being imposed upon those carrying out hand picking work. The majority of them harvest only ripe cotton. But there have been many incidents wherein these individuals have harvested unripe bolls and also cases of the cotton becoming contaminated by leaves. This cannot be tolerated. And here it is important for each participant in the harvest campaign to be imbued with a sense of personal responsibility for the overall task. Negligence, carelessness and an indifferent attitude towards one's harvest responsibilities cannot be tolerated.

The oblast and rayon party committees, the primary party organizations and the RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/ specialists must create good working and recreation conditions for those participating in the harvest campaign. They must be informed regarding the results of the competition and the incentive measures established for the winners and leading figures in the machine and manual harvest operations.

"The rates for and the quality of the cotton harvesting operations must be raised!" -- the work being performed by the party, soviet, komsomol and

agricultural organs and by the specialists and all agricultural workers must be directed towards achieving this goal. The operation of the field - hopper - wagon - procurement point production line must be accelerated such that the plan and obligation for the third year of the five-year plan will be fulfilled prior to the onset of inclement weather.

7026
CSO: 1824/071

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

COTTON HARVEST PROGRESS IN TAJIKISTAN

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 1

/Article by N. Ruzanov, Tajik SSR: "The Hoppers Are Being Filled With Cotton"/

/Excerpts/ Harvesting operations are in full swing on the cotton fields of Tajikistan. The farmers are striving to carry out this work as rapidly as possible, without losses and to sell 910,000 tons of high quality cotton, including 320,000 tons of fine-fiber cotton.

The leading farms of large cotton growing rayons -- Matchinskiy, Zafarobodskiy, Yavanskiy, Proletarskiy and Il'ichevskiy -- have raised their daily sales of raw cotton to the state to 5-6 percent of the annual plan. Every 4-5 days the man-made mountains of "white gold" at the republic's procurement points increase by 100,000 or more tons.

"The agroindustrial associations are carrying out the harvesting and processing of the cotton as part of a continuous process," stated the head of the Department of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan V. Vakhidov. "This has opened up broad opportunities for employing progressive forms and methods for procuring and evaluating high quality raw cotton and it has promoted the achievement of high final results."

In Gissarskiy, Yavanskiy and Matchinskiy Rayons, the local representatives of plants are accepting a portion of the cotton directly on the farms. Following rapid-analysis, it is shipped off immediately for processing, by-passing the procurement points. Thus the transport expenses decreased by half. A considerable savings was realized from reduced production costs for spinning raw materials delivered to the textile workers. In the Vakhsh River Valley the crop was accepted on a brigade basis. In addition to the credited weight and grade, the computations here also take into account the yield of fiber and its type. And a factor which is of equal importance -- the specimens of the product to be used for laboratory analysis are not selected from a batch on the whole, as was the case earlier, but rather they are selected from each tractor wagon. This makes it possible to determine more accurately the quality of the cotton being received and, when certain deviations from the norm are uncovered, to undertake the necessary measures immediately.

The increasing requirements with regard to maintaining the quality indicators in the work have forced many leaders and specialists to apply themselves in a

more serious manner to the problems concerned with improving the agricultural practices and the varietal structure of the cotton sowings. This has been accomplished for the republic as a whole in favor of fine-fiber varieties. The receiving points are presently receiving especially valuable raw materials from 150 kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The harvest work rates are determined mainly on the basis of skilful use of the equipment. The highest such rates are to be found in Matchinskiy Rayon. Here there are 114 harvest teams working on the cotton plantations and they intend to harvest 70 percent of the cotton with the aid of machines.

"Double-shift operations have been organized for all of the teams," stated the chairman of the RAPO Council S. Akramov. "A 24-hour schedule provides for work by repair workshops of Sel'khoztekhnika, a service for supplying spare parts and a station for furnishing rapid technical assistance. This has been of assistance in raising the productivity of the harvesting-transport detachments and shortening the harvest schedules."

For example, the workers at the local Kolkhoz imeni Kalinin required only 18 days for carrying out the harvest work and fulfilling their task for selling raw cotton to the state. During this period, more than 4,000 tons of raw cotton were shipped to the procurement point. The Kolkhozes imeni Zhdanov, imeni Karl Marx and imeni Kuybyshev are close to achieving their planned goals. The farmers in Matchinskiy Rayon, in behalf of the Great October holiday, have resolved to fulfill their obligations for selling cotton to the state and to supply it with no less than 60,000 tons.

Based upon the experience of past years, the flow-line harvesting method "hopper - wagon - procurement point" is being employed more extensively by the machine operators in Il'ichevskiy, Yavanskiy, Zafarobodskiy and Kuybyshevskiy Rayons. Here one will not see freshly harvested snow-white heaps of cotton among the plantations -- it is shipped immediately for processing. Each machine operator is achieving high results as a result of efficient interaction among all of the harvesting teams.

In addition to the veterans, many young machine operators are also achieving high outputs.

But the equipment is not being employed in a skilful manner in all areas. Reductions in machine harvesting output have been experienced in Isfarinskiy, Kulyabskiy, Ordzhonikidzeabadskiy, Leninskiy and Tursunzadevskiy Rayons. After being harvested, the raw cotton at times accumulates out on the fields owing to the fact that the tractor wagons are tied up waiting to be unloaded at the gates of the procurement points. As a result, the daily output of a combine here is 1.5-2 tons, or just one third of the task. A considerable number of the combines in these rayons are not being operated at all. Some specialists attempt to blame this situation on unfavorable weather conditions, which interfered with the proper defoliation of the cotton plants. But this was not the sole problem. The new GOST /state standard/ is being employed in all areas. Earlier the machine harvested cotton, regardless of its quality, was paid for at the rate for 1st grade. Today the computation is being based upon the actual quality of the raw cotton. And the difference is

rather appreciable. On a number of farms the fields were not prepared in advance for machine harvesting operations: weeds remained on the fields and the leaves were not removed completely from the cotton plants. Naturally, the hopper raw cotton from such plantations is characterized by a high degree of weediness and thus the leaders of the farms rely upon manual harvesting operations. But this tends to prolong the harvest schedules and it results in lower quality fiber.

Brigades and teams which operate according to the group contract method perform this work in a zealous and responsible manner. There are presently more than 1,200 such brigades and teams in cotton production. As a rule, greater order prevails in such brigades and teams and higher yields are obtained. The brigade headed by M. Butayev at the Kolkhoz imeni Zhdanov in Kumsangirskiy Rayon, after undertaking a contract for the production of fine-fiber cotton, immediately rejected manual harvesting operations and decided to rely upon the use of machines. And what was the result? The collective is already completing its mass harvesting of cotton. Forty quintals were obtained from each hectare. All of the raw cotton is of 1st grade quality. The brigade will obtain not less than 10 quintals from the final cleaning of the fields. Only 10 rubles were expended for each ton of cotton harvested.

Many similar examples reflecting the effectiveness of the group contract method could be cited. Unfortunately, the majority of the grain growers are still operating on a piece-rate wage basis. Their conversion to the progressive system for labor organization would promote a solution for the problem concerned with the machine harvesting of cotton. As yet, the farms are employing machines for harvesting only one third of the crop. The expenses for manual labor payments "are consuming" almost one half of the above-plan profits.

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CSO: 1824/073

BRIEFS

COMPETITION LEADERS--Chimkent Oblast--The harvesting of cotton is in full swing on the cotton plantations in southern Kazakhstan. The oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have delivered the initial 100,000 tons of "white gold" to the procurement points. Since the start of the harvest campaign, the cotton growers in Turkestanskiy Rayon have seized the leadership in the competition. During the first 10 days of the mass harvesting work, they succeeded in fulfilling the raw cotton procurement plan by 30 percent. The farms in Pakhtaaralskiy Rayon are carrying out their harvest work at a rapid tempo, having vowed this year to raise the overall volume of raw cotton procurements to 100,000 tons. /by Yu.Livinskiy/ /Excerpts/ /Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

COTTON DELIVERIES--Chimkent Oblast--More than 170,000 tons of raw cotton have been delivered to procurement points in Chimkent Oblast. The daily deliver volume is now 7,000-8,000 tons of high quality raw materials. A decisive role has been played by the machine operators almost since the very beginning of the harvest work: each day they are unloading 8,000-9,000 tons of cotton from the hoppers of their combines. The farmers in Turkestanskiy, Dzhetysayskiy and Pakhtaaralskiy Rayons are the leaders in the competition. High rates have been achieved here in harvesting and delivering the cotton as a result of efficient work by all elements of the harvesting-transport production line. Harvest work has now been in progress for 3 weeks out on the cotton fields in Chimkent Oblast. Dozens of collectives have reported fulfillment of their plans. New virgin land farms in Chardarinskiy Rayon have commenced their harvest work out on the cotton fields. /by A. Utyaganov/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

EMPHASIS ON QUALITY--Chimkent Oblast--The oblast's cotton fields appear to be dressed out in a white covering of snow. The most important period is at hand for the cotton growers -- the harvesting of the crop. The hand-picking experts, who launched the start of the "white harvest" on the ripe cotton fields, which have shed their green leaves following defoliation, are being followed by the combines. The plans call for the combines to gather in the principal portion of the crop. The machine operators in Turkestanskiy Rayon, who have been organized into 14 consolidated harvesting-transport complexes, were the first to move their combines out into the crop rows. They immediately began operating at a high tempo. The largest cotton field is in Pakhtaaralskiy Rayon. This year the agricultural workers promise to supply the textile industry with more than 100,000 tons of raw cotton, 80,000 tons of

which will be harvested by machines. Thirty two harvesting-transport complexes, the structure of which includes 542 cotton harvesting combines, 105 special machines and approximately 3,000 bulk freight wagons for transporting cotton, have been created in the rayon for the duration of the harvest period. A high degree of mechanization, commencing with the very first days of the harvest campaign, is making it possible for them to achieve fine indicators. This year special attention is being given to the quality of the raw cotton being harvested. Whereas earlier the cotton was subdivided according to the harvesting method -- manual or machine -- today it is also being categorized according to grade. The field workers are striving to observe in a strict manner the flow line technology for harvesting the crop and to deliver only high quality cotton to the procurement points. With each passing day the "white harvest" is increasing in tempo. The cotton growers in southern Kazakhstan are devoting all of their efforts to ensuring that the harvest work is carried out rapidly and without losses and that the raised socialist obligations are successfully fulfilled. /by Yu. Livinskiy, Chimkent Oblast/ /Excerpts/ /Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

VALUABLE COTTON VARIETY--Dushanbe--The procurement centers in southern Tajikistan have begun receiving fine-fiber cotton from the valuable Tajik breed 6249-v variety. This cotton is distinguished by high quality and strong fiber used in the production of the best fabrics. In filling the order of the textile workers, republic farms expanded their sowings of this variety by 10,000 hectares this year. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 13 Sep 83 p 1] 7026

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

Sverdlovsk URAL'SKIYE NIVY in Russian No 8, Aug 83 pp 39-43

/Article by N. Vostrikov, Candidate of Economic Sciences: "Greater Beef Production"/

/Text/ One of the most urgent tasks assigned to the country's livestock breeders by the 26th CPSU Congress is that of increasing the production of beef. An all-union conference held in Orenburg in late May was dedicated to this problem, with discussions taking place on problems associated with the technology for pedigree beef cattle husbandry. In particular, in the reports issued by VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/ Academician A.V. Cherekayev and V.V. Korzhenevskiy (USSR Ministry of Agriculture) and in the speeches by Professor G.I. Bel'kov (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Butter-and-Cheese-Making Industry), Professor D.L. Levantin (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Livestock Breeding), Professor Z.N. Dorotyuk (Ukrainian SSR), Professor L.P. Prakhov (Gorkiy Agricultural Institute) and others, it was mentioned in particular that the rates of development for beef cattle husbandry as an independent branch are still very low. The existing technologies for the raising and fattening of cattle are not ensuring a high productivity for the animals and they are resulting in feed over-expenditures, a high production cost for the beef and low profitability for the branch. The participants in the conference prepared recommendations for improving the cattle fattening technology and raising the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry.

This article by Candidate of Economic Sciences N.I. Vostrikov is devoted to certain organizational-economic and technological problems associated with raising the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry and it is recommended for the attention of the readers.

In the Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR During 1981-1985 and for the Period Up To 1990, approved during the 26th CPSU Congress, the plans call for the annual production of meat to be raised to 17-17.5 million tons (in dressed weight). Moreover, beef must occupy a considerable place in the country's overall meat balance.

economic computations and the practice of leading farms in our country and also foreign experience have shown that by means of dairy cattle husbandry alone, even with very intensive use for meat purposes of replacement animals, it is impossible to satisfy the population's requirements for beef and veal or those of industry for heavy leather raw materials. Moreover, the meat of dairy cattle is considerably inferior in quality to the meat of beef strains of cattle. In this regard, the creation in our country of specialized beef cattle husbandry operations is considered to be a vital need.

In this present article, we would like to discuss in somewhat greater detail certain organizational-economic and technological aspects of beef cattle husbandry.

The slow rates of development for beef cattle husbandry at the present time are conditioned to a considerable degree by the low productivity of dairy cows and by a shortage of milk. With an increase in the milk yields to 2,700 - 3,000 kilograms per cow, the population's requirements for milk and dairy products will be satisfied completely and the need for developing beef cattle husbandry will increase sharply.

It is our opinion that the unsatisfactory production and economic indicators for beef cattle husbandry are explained mainly by the fact that the organizational-administrative arrangement at a majority of the beef sovkhozes does not conform to their specialization: beef cattle husbandry, not being the leading branch, provides only 13-40 percent of the overall volume of annual income.

In addition, the logistical base at these sovkhozes is quite often weak, the structure of the sowing areas does not always ensure the production of the feed quality required, the problems concerned with bringing about radical improvements in the natural feed lands, the flooding and irrigation of pastures are solved in a very slow manner and the proportion of cheap pasture feed is not being raised.

The majority of the beef sovkhozes are multiple-branch farms with a complete turnover of the herd and only some of them have intra-farm specialization: there are farms for obtaining and raising calves up until weaning, for raising replacement young stock and for the fattening of cattle.

Meanwhile the process of animal husbandry specialization and concentration being carried out throughout the country calls for the creation of new forms of farm cooperation in the production of beef on an industrial basis. In our opinion the cooperation structure must include farms -- producers of beef type calves, specialized farms for the raising of heifers and non-calving young cows and also fattening complexes or sites. In the process, consideration must be given to all of the specific factors exerting an influence on production efficiency and particularly -- the condition of the feed lands, the availability of feed for the livestock, the presence of labor resources and the logistical base.

In the steppe, semi-desert and mountainous zones, which are distinguished by meagre pastures and small populations, the farms should ideally specialize in

the reproduction of calves. Here the technology for beef cattle husbandry must call for maximum use of cheap pasture feed and seasonal calvings of the cows during the spring months. The weaning of calves from the cows should take place in the autumn, at the same time. Prior to the onset of inclement weather, the cows should be made ready for winter, with sufficient reserve nutrients being created in their organisms. During the winter they can be maintained in light-duty facilities and kept on moderate rations. Following weaning, the calves are turned over to specialized farms having good feed bases for subsequent raising and fattening.

Experience also indicates that in zones of beef cattle husbandry the young stock can be fattened successfully at sites which are distinguished by a high degree of economical operations.

In regions of intensive farming, where plowing up of the land is carried out on an extensive scale, greater use must be made of the more progressive technologies for beef cattle husbandry. The foundation for such technologies -- intensive feed production in a field crop rotation plan with a maximum feed yield per hectare of land. The greatest results are produced by the same type of feeding being supplied to the livestock throughout the year.

With the same type of feeding, improvements are realized in the utilization of a feed hectare of arable land, since all of the crops are harvested in accordance with scientifically sound agrotechnical periods and during that period of the growing season when the vegetative bulk contains a maximum amount of nutrients. As a result, the overall feed yield per hectare increases by 15-20 percent. A mandatory requirement is that of creating insurance supplies of high quality feed. As a rule, the cows and calves are maintained on a year-round, non-pasture open range basis. For ensuring motion by the animals, the grazing yard area for a cow with calf is increased to 24-30 square meters and it includes hills or embankments. Wind protective shields are installed in each plot on the side of the prevailing winds and at a distance of 50-60 meters from the farm -- snow fences. The withdrawal of waste water is achieved by leveling off the territory of a farm and by creating longitudinal and transverse slopes in the feed-grazing yards, where throughout almost the entire year the cattle are fed. During especially inclement weather, the feed is distributed to a facility by means of fixed or mobile feeding troughs.

In addition to the traditional technology (maintenance of cows and calves during the summer on pastures and in stalls during the winter), year-round non-pasture maintenance of animals is being employed at an experimental farm of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Beef Cattle Husbandry and has been in use for a number of years. An industrial complex has been built here that includes two cow barns, two light duty type facilities, a feed preparation shop, a multiple purpose point for the carryinggout of zooveterinary measures and storehouse facilities. Each cow barn is divided into two sections. A section of the first cow barn is equipped with a delivery room and the second section is used for newly calved cows with calves in which the cows are maintained until fruitful fertilization, at which point they are transferred to a section of the second cow barn. Following weaning of the calves, the cows are placed in a fourth section and the young stock are sent to a fattening site that is interlinked with the light duty type facility.

Such a technology calls for a brigade organization of labor and will ensure a sufficiently high labor productivity, since the animals will be maintained in large groups and thus the efficiency of use of mechanized equipment will increase sharply.

The intensive feeding of young stock during the raising and suckling periods and early training in the eating of all types of feed are making it possible to carry out the weaning work to a live weight of 220-240 kilograms. With subsequent intensive fattening, the live weight of young bulls at 14-16 months of age is raised to 450-500 kilograms.

A similar technology is being employed successfully at the Zimovniki Stud Farm in Rostov Oblast, the Stepnoy Sovkhoz in the Kalmyk ASSR, at the Avangard and Ural'skiy Sovkhozes in Orenburg Oblast and on some other farms.

In our opinion, a restraining factor in the development of beef cattle husbandry is the absence of a uniform and efficient technology for the maintenance and feeding of beef cattle. On many farms, beef cattle husbandry is based upon a technology borrowed from dairy cattle husbandry, with the cattle quite often being maintained in stalls in substantial and costly facilities marked by a low level of mechanization of production processes. As a result, the cost of a cattle billet reaches 1200-1500 rubles, the workload per worker is low -- 50-60 head, the labor expenditures per quintal of product is more than 35-40 manhours and the production cost per quintal of weight increase is high -- 190-200 rubles.

In the case of beef cattle, there are almost no efficient standard plans for farms and complexes which call for the introduction of a progressive technology for the maintenance and feeding of animals in conformity with certain natural-economic conditions. In this regard, a need has arisen for accelerating the development of such standard plans. Beef cattle husbandry is characterized by a low capital-output ratio. Thus one task associated with the planning of farms and complexes for beef cattle is that of lowering the specific capital investments per cattle billet and reducing expenditures for the maintenance of beef cows. However the existing system for planning and especially construction stimulates the development and construction of expensive animal husbandry facilities, involving the use of very costly materials. This makes it possible for the builders, even in the face of small volumes, to fulfill easily their plans from a cost standpoint.

In Orenburg Oblast there is absolutely no requirement for substantial beef cattle facilities that were constructed using costly structures. Extensive use has been made here of light structures and cheap local building materials and this has made it possible to lower the cost of a cattle-billet to 320-350 rubles. Thus, for example, at the Sputnik Sovkhoz in Svetlinskiy Rayon, which numbers more than 1,600 beef cows, an industrial complex for 1,200 beef cows with calves and a gross production of 3,690 quintals of weight increase was built in 1973. The complex achieved its planned capability in 1978 in terms of its principal production indicators. The calf yield per 100 cows and non-calving young cows is 100 head and the average daily weight increase in young stock up to 8 months of age -- 631-773 grams. Since it was first placed in operation, the number of cattle at the complex has increased by 58 percent and increases have taken place in the weight gains in young stock and in the calf yields.

The Sputnik Sovkhoz is a producer of the Kalmyk strain for the eastern virgin land regions of Orenburg Oblast. The foundation of the herd -- pure bred young bulls imported in 1969 from the Kalmyk ASSR. Breeding work began in 1974 in the sovkhoz's second department. Three hundred pure bred cows were selected from the overall herd based upon their breeding-genetic characteristics, with sire-bulls of the appropriate strain being imported from Aktyubinsk.

In recent years, a great amount of work has been carried out here in connection with increasing the numbers of Kalmyk cattle. In addition to pure-strain breeding, experiments are being carried out in the absorptive crossing of cows of the Kazakh Belogolovaya and Short Horn strains with Kalmyk bulls. The number of cattle reached 4,873 head by 1 January 1983, including 4,389 pure strain types. Over the next few years, the plans call for the hybrid animals to be completely replaced by pure strain types.

In the complex of measures for developing beef cattle husbandry at the sovkhoz, a great amount of attention is being given to creating a strong feed base: the structure of the sowing areas is being improved, improvements are being carried out in the agricultural practices being employed in the cultivation of forage crops and highly productive varieties are being introduced into operations. Hay procurements increased from 22,000 quintals in 1976 to 35,000 quintals in 1982 and increases took place in the laying in of silage and haylage.

However the cost of feed still remains high and thus in the production cost structure for 1 quintal of weight increase feed accounts for 105-130 rubles, or 50-60 percent of all expenditures.

The authorities at the sovkhoz are convinced that high productivity is unthinkable in the absence of well organized feed preparation operations. Towards this end, a feed preparation shop was built at the complex in 1976 which makes it possible to prepare semi-damp feed mixtures. The ration structure includes hay, straw, silage or haylage and concentrates. The feed is issued three times in the grazing-feed yards and watering is carried out using heated water issued from AGK-4 group drinking bowls.

The efficiency of beef cattle husbandry operations is greatly dependent upon the organization of herd reproduction work. Priority attention is being given to this work at the sovkhoz. Zootechnical accounting is well organized at the complex, the cows are being inspected on a regular basis for pregnancy and barren cows and those which have not come into heat are being treated in a timely manner. Delivery sections have been equipped for receiving the calves, with strict sanitary order being maintained in these areas. This is making it possible for the collective at the complex to protect all of the newborn calves.

One peculiarity associated with the organization of herd reproduction work at the complex is the carrying out of calving operations in January - March. The farm obtains up to 85 percent of its calves during a period of 3 months. The number of calvings is especially high during January (up to 50 percent).

Since 1975, young cattle stock have been raised at the Sputnik Sovkhoz using the intensive method. Commencing when they are 10 days old, the calves learn

how to eat coarse and concentrated feed. Feeding troughs are installed in special sections for this purpose, sections which have trapdoors for the free entering and exiting of the calves. Training calves to consume different types of feed during the suckling period promotes more intensive growth in them and it shortens the transitional period from milk to non-milk nourishment. The average daily weight increase in the young stock is 700-850 grams and the live weight of the calves reaches 185-200 kilograms by the time they are weaned.

An intensification of beef cattle husbandry requires that heifers be drawn into herd turnover operations at an earlier age. Experiments conducted at the Sputnik Sovkhoz reveal that the intensive raising of heifers promotes their early physiological and economic ripeness and more rapid reproduction of the herd. With intensive raising, the heifers in a test group reached a live weight of 365 kilograms at 16 months of age, whereas in the control group -- not until 24 months of age. The average daily weight increase in the test heifers, from birth to 16 months of age, was 706 grams and for the control animals -- 517 grams. The test heifers were mated at the age of 16 months when they had achieved a live weight of 340-360 kilograms. In the case of well developed test heifers, sexual maturity occurred 5-6 months earlier than that for animals in the control group. The intensive raising or early mating of the heifers did not adversely affect either their live weight following calving or the offspring obtained from them.

The early mating of heifers is profitable also from an economic standpoint: the period for the raising of cows is shortened, feed expenditures are reduced by 18-24 percent, labor expenditures and the production costs for feed are lowered by 16-22 percent and the turnover in assets is accelerated by 10-14 percent.

Each year the sovkhoz raises 600-700 heifers of the Kalmyk strain. In addition to expanding reproduction of the herd, it is also selling 300-450 pedigree heifers and 100-120 young bulls to other farms annually. Bulls which do not have any pedigree value are matured at the Svetlinskiy Inter-farm Fattening Site and at the age of 17-18 months they are delivered to a meat combine at an average live weight of 450-470 kilograms, with the average daily weight increase during maturing being 900 grams.

By carrying out purposeful work associated with reproduction of the herd, the farm increased its number of pure strain cows from 300 head in 1974 to more than 1,600 head at the present time.

The Sputnik Sovkhoz over-fulfilled its plans for selling meat to the state during the 10th Five-Year Plan and the first 4 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan. Following the placing in operation of the industrial complex, meat production increased by 37 percent compared to the average annual production for the 10th Five-Year Plan.

One of the chief reasons for the low economic efficiency of beef cattle husbandry is the extremely low average daily weight increases in the young stock during raising and fattening.

Beef cattle husbandry can be profitable when the average daily increase in live weight in the calves is 950-1,000 grams. Only then is it possible to

cover the expenses required for maintaining young stock and cows and to obtain 350-400 rubles worth of profit from the sale of one head. But as yet the daily productivity of young stock, even on the best specialized farms, does not exceed 750-800 grams. It is especially low during the suckling period.

The fattening technology employed in our country for fattening beef animals is based as a rule on pasture maintenance for calves. The periods for raising young stock are being dragged out, the percentage of cows in a herd is decreasing and there are many animals which are not utilizing the feed in a productive manner. All of this lowers the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry. Meanwhile, a calf can achieve a weaning live weight of not less than 180 kilograms at 8 months of age, with an average daily weight increase of 650 grams. For a lesser weight increase, the suckling period for the young stock is continued for more than 10 months and the cattle are turned over for meat purposes when they are more than 2 years of age.

This is why a number of farms in our oblast have rejected grazing for calves. Today they are being maintained separately in summer camps and they have free access to water and feed. The cows are grazing on pastures and feeding milk to their offspring 2-3 times daily.

This method for raising calves is being employed in a skilful manner at the sovkhozes Ural'skiy and Teplovskiy in Pervomayskiy Rayon, Avangard in Akbulakskiy Rayon, Belogorskiy in Belyayevskiy Rayons and at other farms. Young bulls raised according to an experimental technology reached an initial pre-fattening weight (180-200 kilograms) even before they were 8 months of age -- one and a half months earlier. During 1982, more than 40,000 young bulls were raised according to this method on farms throughout the oblast.

Considerable importance is attached to organizing the intensive raising and fattening of young cattle in the interest of increasing beef production. Studies have established the fact that young cattle are distinguished by a high adaptive resistance to low temperatures and by a broad range for the thermoneutral zone. Thus they can be fattened in the absence of substantial facilities and with reduced expenditures of labor and resources.

A series of experiments carried out by workers at VNIIMS /All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Butter and Cheese-Making Industry/ and other institutes, in various climatic zones, has underscored the high degree of effectiveness to be realized from the fattening of cattle at various types of sites. At the same time, it has been established that the technology for fattening cattle at sites and the design solution for such sites must conform to the specific natural-climatic peculiarities of the zone.

In the case of maintenance at sites, the condition of the animals and their productivity are greatly influenced by climatic factors: temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, insolation and so forth. The average daily weight increases for young stock in Orenburg Oblast during the autumn and winter are roughly 19 percent lower and feed expenditures per unit of weight increase 20-30 percent higher than during spring and summer. With the onset of favorable weather, the average daily weight increases in the animals increase to a larger degree and this is borne out by the fact that the

physiological characteristics of an organism which developed under the influence of cold conditions are stable in nature and its compensatory potential is raised.

At sites in Orenburg Oblast which are located in a zone marked by a stern and sharp continental climate (amplitude of temperature fluctuations 85-90°C), substantial corrections are made to the animal rations during the colder months: their overall nutritional value is raised and their structure changed. In addition, the thickness of the bedding is increased and additional measures are undertaken for removing snow and farmyard manure from the plots and for protecting the animals against wind.

Considerable importance is attached to well organized feed preparation operations. Feed preparation shops have been built at all of the inter-farm sites, where the feed is milled, mixed and enriched with proteins, mineral substances and vitamins. Granulators and briquetting machines have been installed in many of the shops. Different recipes are used in making granules and briquettes for the various age groups. The recipes are changed depending upon the season of the year.

The observance of the technological conditions mentioned above and some others serve to ensure high weight increases during the winter months. Thus, during December, which was a very severe winter month over the past 4 years, weight increases of from 900 to 1,120 grams were obtained at three sites and from 700 to 800 grams at eight sites.

Knowledge of the process of adapting animals to various environmental conditions is the basis for creating plans for more improved facilities and fattening sites. The mentioned circumstance has prompted the development of a new plan for a fattening site that calls for the interlocking of pens with facilities of the light duty type and the installation of snow and wind protection arrangements and elevated sectors in the form of hillocks. In the interest of improving the sanitary status, the area of the pens is increased to 18-24 square meters per head. For farms which do not have an adequate quantity of bedding material, provision is made for a site to be equipped with boxes.

A comparative study of the effectiveness of fattening operations carried out at sites of the new type (see Table) has shown that the average daily weight increases for gelded bulls were 15.2 percent higher from December to March. In December the daily weight increase for animals in a test group was higher by 21.8 percent and in January -- by 23.2 percent. From December to March, for each kilogram of weight increase obtained in the gelded bulls in the test group 8.4 feed units were expended and for a control group -- 10.6 feed units. In December and January this difference increased to 26.6 and 30.2 percent.

Of strains bred in the southern Urals zone, the highest productivity during fattening at sites was observed in young stock of the Kazakh Belogolovaya strain. The average daily weight increases for this strain were 9.4 percent higher than that for the Krasnaya Steppe strain and 1.7 percent higher than the Simmental'skaya strain. It is worthy of note that during the cold period of the year the productivity of animals of the Kazakh Belogolovaya strain

decreased to a lesser degree. Over a period of 8 months, gelded animals of all of the mentioned strains achieved a rather high live weight -- 440-470 kilograms. During freezing and windless weather the cattle as a rule do not depart their shelter, they consume their feed more willingly and they rest and lie around more. In the process, their average daily weight increases decrease to a lesser degree.

Effectiveness of Fattening of Young Stock at Sites of a Different Type

Indicator	Maintenance Conditions: Exposed Site	Maintenance Conditions: Site Interlocked With Light Duty Type Facility
Live weight during assignment at 9 months of age, kg.	222.6	221.3
Live weight at 17 months of age, kg.	440.0	451.9
Average daily weight increase, grams	870.0	919.0
including for December - March, grams	737.0	845.0
Weight (carcass), kg.	233.0	236.9
Feed consumption per kg of weight increase, feed units	9.40	8.18
including from December - March	10.62	8.37
Production cost per quintal of weight increase, rubles	76.93	78.50
Profit from sale of 1 head, rubles	474.88	487.50

Thus it is our opinion that the principal organizational-economic and technological conditions for fattening cattle at sites must be:

...full-value feeding to the cattle, throughout the entire fattening period, of feed that was prepared for fattening. During the winter months it must compensate for the additional expenditures of energy by an organism in order to maintain homeostasis;

...a dry den for resting. This can be achieved by interlocking the sites with light duty type facilities or triple-walls and creating deep bedding in them and in the absence of such bedding -- installation of boxes;

...for improving the sanitary status of the pens, the sites should be located on terrain having a slope of 3-6 degrees, with hard surfaces being provided in zones marked by large amounts of precipitation;

...on the side of the prevailing winds, the sites must be protected by a fence for a distance of 40-50 meters and each pen must be enclosed by a fence;

...during the winter months the cattle must be provided with heated water;

...the cattle must be prepared in advance for fattening at the sites. The calves of dairy strains, raised as a rule in warm facilities, must undergo "acclimatization" in unheated buildings offering free access to grazing yards.

The calves of beef strains, following the suckling period, must be removed from the cows and trained to consume coarse and succulent feeds;

...groups of young stock for fattening must be composed taking into account the live weight and age and the groups must remain unchanged until the completion of fattening.

In addition to these conditions, on farms in Orenburg Oblast, where approximately 70 percent of the young stock sold to the state are fattened at sites, a complex of measures has been developed for raising the efficiency of beef production. It includes tasks for leading farms aimed at strengthening the feed base, raising the level of mechanization of production processes and improving the professional expertise of the cattle tender-operators and also a system of incentives for indicators achieved.

Each year, approximately 200,000 head of cattle are fattened to a live weight of 400 kilograms or more at inter-farm sites in the oblast. The average daily weight increase for the animals during the 1974-1982 period was 688 grams and this was considerably higher than the figure for kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The labor expenditures per quintal of weight increase dropped to 6-7 man-hours and that for feed to 9-10 quintals of feed units. It bears mentioning that the conversion of beef production over to an industrial basis took place without a considerable increase in capital investments. Roughly 33.5 million rubles were expended for the construction of the fattening sites and during the period of their operation more than 130 million rubles worth of profit were obtained, that is, the expenditures were repaid fourfold. This makes it possible for the farms to carry out work aimed at increasing the capabilities of the sites, using a portion of the profits for this purpose. At the present time, some sites are already receiving young stock the live weight of which is 120-140 kg and future plans call for all calves to be accepted for maturing and fattening following the milking period. In this regard, the design solution for newly built phases of these sites has been changed somewhat. For the maintenance of young stock during the adaptation period, the facilities are being equipped with boxes with feeding troughs.

In conclusion I would like to state that there are large reserves in Orenburg Oblast for further increasing the production of beef. They are embodied in carrying out improvements in reproducing the herd, raising the young stock, increasing their live delivery weights, reducing the periods of time required for raising them, introducing crossings of cows and heifers of dairy and combined specialized productivities with beef strains of bulls and creating a strong feed base.

Over the past 15 years, the number of cattle in the oblast has increased by a factor of 2.3, including cows by a factor of 2.6. The necessary logistical base has been created for the development of beef cattle husbandry, a base which is capable of making this branch highly efficient and increasing the number of beef cattle to 248,000 head by 1985, including up to 95,000 cows. In the future, the oblast's beef cattle husbandry operations will become one of the largest suppliers of high quality meat.

7026
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STATE PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REVIEWED, PROBLEMS NOTED

Moscow ZAKUPKI SEL'SKOKHOZYAYSTVENNYKH PRODUKTOV in Russian No 8, Aug 83 pp 1-4

[Article by P. Chaykin, USSR Deputy Minister of Procurement: "Fulfillment of the State Plan for Procurements of Agricultural Products as the Main Condition for Implementing the Food Program"]

[Excerpt] Owing to the state procurements system it is possible to supply the population regularly and universally with bread, macaroni products, sugar and canned fish and vegetables. At the same time, the demand for some foodstuffs as yet exceeds their production levels. In view of this and in accordance with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the Food Program provides for high growth rates of the production and procurements of all kinds of agricultural products.

In outlining these goals the party and state provide all the necessary material and organizational premises for attaining them. In recent years a number of decisions has been taken to streamline the economic mechanism and strengthen the economies of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, provide them with additional modern means of production and strengthen the material interest of agricultural workers in increasing the production and sales to the state of agricultural production and improving its quality.

The party and government place great hopes in the recently established agro-industrial associations. The November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenum evaluated the first steps taken to implement the Food Program and took note of the selfless labor of rural toilers under the complex weather conditions of last year. Once again the attention of the participants in the agro-industrial complex was drawn to the need to make the efforts of the working people and the huge resources allocated to agriculture yield benefits to the country even now and on a still greater scale in the future.

Currently it is highly important for all procurement organizations and state procurement inspectorates to determine their place in the agro-industrial complex and wage a resolute struggle to strengthen state procurement discipline and assure an unconditional plan fulfillment by every farm and rayon.

In this connection it is both necessary and highly important for the employees of the procurement system to determine clearly and explicitly their place and role in the agro-industrial complex from the standpoint of the requirements of the Food Program. At all levels of that system close coordination with the

agro-industrial complex should be assured and responsibility for fulfilling the procurement plans as the end-result of agricultural production should be tightened. Here it should be borne in mind that improvements in the nation's food supply largely hinge on the increase in the salable agricultural production and in the volume of the procurements of agricultural products for state stockpiles. The point is that nearly 90 percent of the salable output of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes reaches the consumer via the system of state procurements. It is that system which provides almost all bread sugar and vegetable oil available to the population, plus 70-80 percent of the products of animal husbandry, potatoes, vegetables and fruits.

The agricultural products in raw and processed form serving to feed people as well as the goods produced from agricultural raw materials account altogether for three-fourths of all consumer goods. Hence, fulfilling the state procurement plans is important to the entire national economy from the standpoint of solving the basic economic task posed to the country by the 26th CPSU Congress and the Food Program.

Stable supplies of bread, groats, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, sugar and vegetable oil to the population as well as improvement in the supply of the products of animal husbandry are possible only if the related state procurement plans are fulfilled, quality is improved and storage is assured.

On every sector, work should be so done as to assure a steady increase in food resources. Fewer references to the weather and more specific day-by-day concern for increasing crop yields and livestock productivity are needed. After all, the farmers of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia worked under difficult weather conditions,yet fulfilled the plan for the first 2 years of the five-year plan as regards gross agricultural production. Compared with the mean annual indicators of the previous five-year plan, a number of oblasts in the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenia did quite well. For the country as a whole, gross agricultural output in 1982 was 4 percent higher than in 1981. Grain production has increased: more rye, buckwheat and millet was added to the state's stockpiles than in the previous year.

During 1981-1982 the state procurement plan for cotton, grapes,eggs, tea leaves, wool, ambari, mulberry-fed silkworms, Karakul fleeces and fur pelts was fulfilled successfully.

At the same time, the organization of state procurements of agricultural products displays major shortcomings. Quite a few farms, rayons oblasts, krays and republics still lag behind the tasks of the five-year plan as regards the growth rates of the production and sales to to the state of grain, potatoes, vegetables and fruits, sugar beets, meat, milk and other produce. The number of the farms underfulfilling the plans is even growing instead of decreasing in certain republics, krays and oblasts. As a result, in the first 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan state plans for the procurement of grain, oil seeds, sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, milk, cattle and poultry have been greatly underfulfilled in the RSFSR, the UkSSR, the Kazakh SSR and the Moldavian SSR, as have been the procurement plans for potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, milk, cattle and poultry in the Belorussian SSR.

In view of the deficient organization of the production and procurement of agricultural products, much work should be done to fulfill the decisions of the party and government in order to overcome the backlog in the development of agricultural production and the fulfillment of state procurement plans.

These days agricultural toilers, their partners in the agro-industrial complex and the procurement personnel have especially much to do: this is the peak season for harvesting operations and the preparation of fodder, and procurements of grain, vegetables, fruits and other crops as well as of animal husbandry products are under way. Efficient and tenacious work by every collective and every worker at his workstation provides the best safeguards for fulfilling the state plans and implementing the Food Program. Such is the duty spelled out in last April's decree of the USSR Council of Ministers "On Additional Measures to Assure Crop Harvesting and the Procurements of Agricultural Produce and Fodder in 1983 and Conduct a Successful Wintering of Cattle During the 1983/1984 Period."

It is worth noting that in places much has been accomplished. The kolkhozes, sovkhozes, agro-industrial associations, and the agricultural and procurement agencies and processing enterprises of ministries and departments handling the procurements of agricultural products have basically prepared competently and efficiently the material-technical facilities for the organized conduct of harvesting operations and the implementation of pledges regarding the procurements of grain and other agricultural production and the provision of a substantial stockpile of fodder on livestock farms.

All subdivisions of the APK [Agro-Industrial Complex] have taken steps to assure complete operational readiness of all grain-harvesting equipment 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the harvesting season and to staff grain-harvesting combines and reapers with skilled operators working in two shifts. Now the right conditions for this exist everywhere on the basis of the collective brigade contract system and other progressive forms of the organization of labor, with competition being widespread, for the purpose of maximizing output and achieving superior quality of performance during the harvesting season while at the same time preventing losses and reaping and storing the entire harvest.

The crucial task of agricultural production--as emphasized in the Food Program--is, as before, grain harvesting, the struggle to further accelerate the production and state procurements of high-grade grain and other food and fodder crops.

During the current harvesting season, grain procurements proceed in an organized manner in the Krasnodar and Stavropol krays, the Rostov, Volgograd, Saratov, Orenburg and various other oblasts of the Volga River Region, the Urals, the Central Chernozem Zone and the Kazakh SSR. In many rayons of those areas the agro-industrial associations indeed operate like a coherent and unified organism all of whose components work in unison to handle the harvesting and state procurements of grain and other produce, to fulfill the Food Program.

During the harvesting season a tremendous responsibility is borne by the procurement and transport enterprises and organizations. Storage capacities have

been greatly expanded. The collectives of the leading grain silos and grain-reception enterprises have completed preparing storage capacities, equipment and access tracks prior to the commencement of the procurement season. Any shortcomings detected are being immediately eliminated.

At grain-reception enterprises measures have been implemented to assure rapid weighing of grain, unloading of large-capacity trucks and trailers, and the prompt processing, drying and reliable storage of grain. Correct grading of grain and the procurement of considerable quantities of durum wheat as well as of the strong and valuable varieties of grain are being assured. An efficient procurement and transport dispatching network helps to organize smooth round-the-clock handling of the transportation and reception of grain.

But such a good organization of the harvesting and procurements of grain does not exist everywhere. In some oblasts of East and West Siberia, the South and the Forest-Steppe of the Ukrainian SSR major deficiencies still exist. On certain farms and in certain rayons of these areas considerable intervals of time are tolerated between the mowing and threshing of grain and its transportation to elevators or transfer of seeds and fodder to farm silos.

Special attention should be paid this year to increasing the production and procurement of durum and strong wheats, buckwheat and millet for the state stockpiles. Unfortunately, we are losing ground in this respect. In many oblasts, rayons, kolkhozes and sovkhozes the underfulfillment of the procurement plans for these crops has become virtually a rule. And yet, without high-grade varieties of wheat it is not possible to meet the demand of the population for good bread and macaroni and other grain products, and without groat crops it is not possible to meet the demand for buckwheats and millet. It has to be admitted that sometimes the agricultural and procurement agencies overlook this aspect. As a result, the land planted with durum wheats is shrinking, the procurements of strong wheats are diminishing owing to violations of agrotechnical and cultivation rules, and the heads of farms and grain-reception enterprises tacitly tolerate this situation.

Of course, this cannot be tolerated any longer. Measures to expand the production and state stockpiles of durum and strong wheats as well as of buckwheat and millet have been drafted, but they have yet to be implemented. A great deal of organizational work has to be carried out in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at grain-reception and processing enterprises to assure fulfilling the procurement plan for these crops, to grade properly the procured and processed grain, and to adhere to the existing procedure for clearing accounts with and providing material incentives to the farms and experts working with these crops. At the same time, the managers and experts on farms and at grain-reception enterprises should be monitored and held strictly accountable for fulfilling the grain procurement plans as regards the variety and quality of the specified crops.

Year after year, we are underfulfilling the corn procurement plan although, as known, the Food Program specifies the demand for corn at 17-20 million tons and the procurement of corn for state stockpiles at 5.4-6 million tons.

This year the kolkhozes and sovkhozes planted much more grain corn than in the previous years. Industrialized techniques of corn cultivation are widespread. Following the example set by the leading links, brigades, collectives and

sovkhozes in North Caucasus, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Kazakhstan and the Central Chernozem Zone, the competition for harvesting 100 quintals of corn per irrigated hectare and 60-70 quintals per "bogara" [Central Asian desert soil] has become practically universal.

All this creates the premises for expanding the production of grain corn and fulfilling its procurement plan in 1983. But no time should be lost in the days that still remain to complete the preparations of equipment and facilities on farms and at grain-reception enterprises as well as the on-schedule construction of corn-processing plants along with seed-cleaning lines, grain dryers and roofed as well as tented processing areas. It is especially worth noting that large quantities of corn in cob and grain form with a high moisture content are arriving at grain-reception enterprises. To preclude losses and spoilage of corn grain, all grain dryers, grain cleaning machinery and other equipment should operate around the clock and smoothly and the schedule for the harvesting, transportation and processing of the stream of procured corn should be strictly followed.

The accomplishment of the current tasks of the Food Program largely depends on improvements in the selection and growing of the seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops. Hence, the Main Directions of the Economic and Social Development of the USSR During 1981-1985 and Through 1990, as approved by the 26th CPSU Congress, point to the need for improving the crop seed growing system, expediting its conversion to industrialized techniques, and introducing more rapidly new highly productive varieties and hybrids as well as improving the quality of seeds. This particular task concerns quite directly the system of the USSR Ministry of Procurement as well, since grain-reception enterprises perform the large-scale handling of the procurements, processing, storage and sales of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops.

At present a state reserve stockpile of varietal seeds of spring grain crops as well as a continuously renewable stockpile of the varietal seeds of winter grain crops should be established at grain-reception enterprises in Union republics, krays and oblasts. Since they are to be used for "insurance" purposes, the seeds in state stockpiles should be of a higher quality than those planted in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. However, the quality of the seeds thus stockpiled does not yet fully meet the requirements for the seeds in state stockpiles.

Of the total quantity of seeds allotted to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes needing them, so far only 60-65 percent meet the requirements for seeds in classes 1 and 2 of the state standard. This is a low indicator of work with seeds. The principal reason is that many low-quality seeds reach the state stockpiles from farms that do not specialize in growing seeds. They are contaminated with weeds that are hard to separate, and infected with diseases and pests. Spot checks by experts from the USSR Ministry of Procurement during contracting for varietal seeds in various oblasts of the RSFSR, the UkSSR, the Kazakh SSR and other Union republics, again uncovered instances in which local agencies violated the established procedure by padding the plan for the procurement of varietal seeds through the addition of considerable quantities (sometimes as much as 50 and more percent) of seeds from non-seed growing kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This indicates that local procurement ministries of the Union republics, the grain products administrations and the state procurement in-

spectorates do not display a principled approach when determining the volume of seed procurements and fulfilling the related plans, and that their monitoring of the performance of seed-growing farms and the contractors--the grain-reception enterprises, is lax.

Agro-industrial associations should solve more efficiently the problems of the planning and organization of the procurements of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops. The Union republic, ASSR, kray and oblast grain-products administrations and the grain-reception enterprises belonging to the agro-industrial associations, as well as the state procurement inspectorates, are obligated to display the proper initiative in solving the problems of improving the procurement of high-grade seeds from the 1983 harvest for the stockpiles of the state.

To assure the preparation of high-grade seeds for state stockpiles, the Union republic procurement ministries are expanding and upgrading the facilities of the grain-reception enterprises, especially as regards the reception and processing of the hybrid and varietal seeds of corn and oleaginous crops. Very little time is remaining for the mass procurement of the seeds of these crops.

The task is to organize at all grain-reception enterprises efficient--based on hourly schedules--reception, processing, drying, storage and sales of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops, upon strictly adhering to the applicable regulations and instructions of the USSR Ministry of Procurement and the USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The Food Program provides for implementing as soon as possible measures to improve markedly the supplies of fruits, vegetables and potatoes to the population through a further expansion of their production and procurement for state stockpiles, improvements in their quality and a drastic reduction in their losses en route from the farm to the consumer.

According to the plan for economic and social development and the procurement contracts concluded for the 1983 harvest, the procurements for that harvest should amount to: 18.1 million tons of potatoes, 21.7 million tons of vegetables and cucurbitaceous crops, 6.4 million tons of fruits and berries, and 6.3 million tons of grapes, or altogether 52.5 million tons, which is 2.8 million tons or 6 percent more than had been procured in 1982. Of the total volume of procurements of fruits, vegetables and potatoes, the enterprises, associations and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Processing are expected to procure 21.2 million tons; those of the USSR Ministry of Food Industry, 10.9 million tons; those of the "Tsentrsoyuz" [Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives], 15.5 million tons; and those of the USSR Ministry of Trade and other ministries and departments, 4.9 million tons. Under the plans approved by the Union republic councils of ministries, a large part of the fruit and vegetable output should be picked up directly on the farms by the procurement organizations and contractor enterprises.

This year the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other state farms have somewhat increased the plantations of potatoes and vegetables, planted more vegetables on irrigated land, improved the level of planting operations, and conducted in a well-organized manner the procurements of early fruits, vegetables and potatoes and their deliveries to cities and industrial centers.

It is important to utilize more fully the existing favorable weather conditions in the country's principal farming zones with the object of fulfilling the procurement plans and delivering potatoes, vegetables and fruits to consumers of all-Union and republic stockpiles. In view of this, the state inspectorates for the procurement and quality control of agricultural products in the autonomous republics, krays, oblasts and rayons are obligated to markedly improve their organization of state procurements of fruits, vegetables and potatoes and monitor strictly the proper determination of the quality of agricultural products and the clearing of the related accounts. They should act as objective arbiters in all disputes among the kolkhozes and sovkhozes--the providers of agricultural products--and the procurement organizations and contractor enterprises.

Major tasks face local state procurement inspectorates, procurement organizations and the contractor enterprises processing industrial crops as regards the procurements of cotton, sugar beets, tea leaves and oleaginous, fiber, essential-oil, herbal and other plants. The planned volume of sugarbeets and oleaginous and fiber crops for this year is intended to catch up with the considerable backlog that has occurred in this respect over many years and to expand the production and fulfill the procurement plans for these crops so as to provide industry with the raw materials for producing sugar, vegetable oil and other products.

Of special concern to agriculture and the entire personnel of the agro-industrial associations is increasing the production and state procurements of the products of animal husbandry, improving consumer supplies of meat and dairy products. The principal path toward expanding animal husbandry is a rapid and decisive conversion from the extensive to the intensive path of development, the strengthening of the fodder base.

It is worth noting that, despite the difficult conditions of the last wintering season, not only has the decrease in the cattle herd been averted but that herd has even increased in size. The population of young livestock has grown markedly. Some republics, krays and oblasts have increased their production and procurements of animal husbandry products. During the first half of this year, compared with a like period last year, for the country as a whole the procurements of cattle and poultry increased by 8 percent; milk, by 13 percent; and eggs, by 4 percent.

However, from the standpoint of the growth rates of the production and procurement of animal husbandry products, where the principal criterion is the extent to which the steadily growing demand of society is being met, it has to be admitted that much is yet to be accomplished in this field by farm and procurement personnel, the entire personnel of the agro-industrial complex.

A broad variety of measures to develop agriculture and implement the Food Program has been outlined in the speech of comrade Yu. V. Andropov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the conference of first secretaries of the Union republic party central committees and kray and oblast party committees on 18 April 1983. At that conference the party yet again drew attention to the need to resolve operatively, clearly, searchingly and pragmatically the problems relating to the Food Program. Here, emphasis should be placed on improving the style of work and tightening the monitoring of the fulfillment of the adopted decisions as well as tightening state and work discipline.

This year, which is of decisive importance to the entire five-year plan, started out with favorable economic conditions for the agricultural toilers and their partners in the agro-industrial complex. New procurement prices and surcharges were introduced for agricultural products and material incentives for the end-results are being increased.

New agencies for agricultural administration--the rayon, oblast, kray and republic (ASSR) agro-industrial associations--are consolidating their operations. All this affects the economy positively. It is important to confer stability on this emerged trend toward improvements in the principal economic indicators. Efficient and tenacious work by every collective and every member of the collective at his workstation provides the most reliable safeguard for fulfilling the state plans and truly implementing the Food Program.

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PROBLEMS OF APK ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT DISCUSSED

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 9, Sep 83 pp 12-19

/Article by A.G. Zel'dner, Doctor of Economic Sciences, professor and senior scientific worker at the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "Economic Mechanism of the APK"/

/Text/ Further improvements in the efficiency of social production, under conditions involving conversion of the country's economy over to the path of intensive development, require a more complete and efficient use of all available material, financial, labor and other resources. The economic mechanism is also included among those factors which exert a great influence with regard to improving the efficiency of the economy. As noted during the 26th CPSU Congress, a further improvement in it is a necessary condition for growth in social production. The great urgency of this problem insofar as it concerns the national economy was pointed out in Yu. V. Andropov's article entitled "The Teachings of Karl Marx and Some Questions Concerning Socialist Construction in the USSR": "...Our work, directed as it is towards improving and reorganizing the economic mechanism and the forms and methods of administration, has fallen behind the requirements imposed by the level achieved in the logistical, social and spiritual development of Soviet society" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, p 13).

Special emphasis should be placed upon the fact that, distinct from other trends aimed at improving the efficiency of the economy, reorganization of the economic mechanism requires practically no additional capital investments or resources.

The economic mechanism of the APK /agroindustrial complex/ is a complicated system of organizational-economic and social-legal measures for controlling the interests of all elements in the chain "worker - enterprise - branch - state." It must bring together all of the available resources for the purpose of achieving the established goals and by employing a system of synchronously operating economic levers, with all other conditions being equal, it must ensure satisfaction of the increasing requirements of society for food goods and agricultural raw materials. The chief function of the economic mechanism is to create the conditions required for the successful implementation of the Food Program.

A modern and adequately effective economic mechanism does not appear all of a sudden. Under the conditions imposed by social means of production, it is

planned and prepared for over an extended period of time. Subsequently it is approved and only thereafter is it introduced into operational practice. Improvements in the economic mechanism -- a process which is constantly taking place in society.

The totality of economic relationships which develop among people during the production process is manifested in the form of economic (material) interests. As noted by Yu.V. Andropov: "One of the most important tasks associated with improving our national economic mechanism is that of ensuring that these interests are taken into account in an accurate manner, that they are combined with the national interests to the maximum possible degree and that they are employed as the driving force for achieving growth in the Soviet economy and improvements in its efficiency and in labor productivity" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, pp 13-14).

In the material world, the only means of existence appears as movement resulting from the interaction of various internal conflicting and constantly changing trends which are objectively inherent to it. In economic processes associated with the public ownership of the means of production, development and movement are also the result of active conflicts stemming from the very nature of developed socialism. This applies, for example, to a conflict between productive forces as the content and production relationships as the form. However, in this instance the conflicts appear as a source for progressive development and the inevitable conversion over to a more effective synthesis of the APK branches, with the APK promoting quantitative and qualitative growth in the final output of the branches. "Antagonism and contradiction" wrote V.I. Lenin "are by no means the same thing." The former disappears and the latter remains under socialism (Lenin Collection XI, p 357). In this regard, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov points out that the task "consists of correctly utilizing the contradictions of socialism as a source and stimulus for its consistent development" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, p 21).

The disparity existing between the potential accumulated in the APK branches and the insufficiently complete production relationships, which are expressed in the priority of branch interests over national economic interests, can be overcome only upon the condition that more effective measures are developed for encompassing the principal aspects of APK management of the economy.

Each stage in the development of a socialist society has its own inherent economic mechanism and the manifestation of this mechanism is both general and particular (branch) in nature. The failure to take this factor into account in the APK system can lead to a lack of balance and to a lack of conformity between the intermediate and final goals. That which is general in nature is peculiar to the entire economic mechanism and typical for the APK. However the general concept in economic practice is manifested in terms of the specific nature of the various branches of the complex and by the methods employed for solving the specific practical tasks. As a rule, the latter must change constantly with the new conditions being taken into account. The use of old methods under changing conditions of management inevitably leads to a slowdown in the rates for development and reproduction.

As already mentioned above, the problem of improving the methods of management is of permanent value for a rather prolonged period of time. Thus we are of

the opinion that in addition to constant work aimed at improving certain economic levers, a requirement exists for a long-term scientifically-sound concept for developing the economic mechanism of the APK. The availability of such a concept will make it possible to solve the social problems of the APK in a more effective manner, develop a flexible system of legal support for its functioning, prepare and recommend various approaches for solving the problems of planning, price formation, financing and so forth.

Any concept assumes the existence of a goal, strategy, stages for achieving the goals, tasks for each stage and the means and methods for carrying out the tasks.

The goal of the concept is to develop a system of long-term measures aimed at improving the planned management of the APK that will ensure, during each stage in the development of the productive forces of developed socialism, more complete satisfaction of the constantly increasing requirements of society for the finished products of the complex, with minimal expenditures of labor, material and financial resources.

The concept for the economic mechanism of the APK must be closely associated with the general trends for improving the planning methods and the organizational structure for other branches of the national economy. In principles, the optimum variant for solving this problem is that of carrying out an overall economic reform. However, owing to the complications involved in implementing it at the national economic level, we can limit ourselves initially to measures aimed at improving the economic mechanism within the system of branches for the food sub-complex of the APK, since according to V.I. Lenin's definition "the food problem provides the foundation for all of the problems" (Complete Works, Vol. 39, p 358). It is important to emphasize that the chief requirement consists of ensuring an all-round mutually coordinated approach for improving the principal elements of the economic mechanism: planning, price formation finances and others. In the process, it will be necessary to observe in a very strict manner the principles of gradualness and priorities in solving the various problems at both the branch and territorial levels.

Let us pause briefly to discuss the principal trends associated with improving the economic mechanism of the agroindustrial complex.

As emphasized in the Constitution of the USSR, the country's economy is managed based upon state plans for economic and social development. Under conditions involving action of the law of value, the planning interrelationships are supplemented by value relationships. This general statute also applies to the APK, the branches of which are supplied with prices by the state, during the course of establishing tasks in a planned manner. For such a pivotal branch of the APK as agriculture, the plan is specific in nature. The purchase prices established by the state are aimed mainly at reimbursing the enterprises for their expenditures and at the present time they are performing more of a planning-accounting function and considerably less of a stimulating function.

The approach to be used for selecting a particular concept for price formation must be determined based upon the existing ratio between supply and demand.

In the case of incomplete satisfaction of society's requirements for a particular agricultural product, objectively worse lands can be introduced into production operations in a planned manner. The purchase prices for products produced on them should be established taking into account ONZT /obshchestvenno neobkhodimyye zatraty truda; socially necessary labor expenditures/ for those enterprises operating under very poor natural-economic production conditions. As improvements are realized in supply and in satisfying demand, the limits of the very poor conditions change and the ONZT level is determined by the existing business conditions of the socialist market.

Further improvements in prices within the concept of the economic mechanism must be predicated upon the following basic principles.

Along the entire path leading from the producer to the consumer, the true expenditures of the enterprises must be reflected more completely in the prices. Special importance is attached in this regard to taking into account in the production cost (as the basis for the price) all expenditures associated with the process of simple reproduction at the enterprise level. At the present time, the production costs at agricultural enterprises do not take into account fines, sanctions, forfeits, expenses for social-domestic services, capital investment expenditures, expenses for applying lime, maintenance of irrigation systems and so forth. In addition, great expenses are borne by the state for covering the difference between the purchasing and wholesale (accounting) prices for the agricultural products. For example, the accounting prices established for meat and milk and considerably lower than the actual production costs.

In the future, further improvements in price formation in the APK must be achieved in the following manner: maximum suitability of a price for understanding and analysis, stability (as a minimum for a five-year period) in the form of uniform union prices, use of the principle of price mobility at the oblast (kray) level within the framework of the overall total amount of prices, comprehensive taking into account of the quality of the products when planning prices and their differentiation on this basis and ensuring the profitability norm required for the goals of expanded reproduction.

In solving these problems, a great role must be played by the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improving the Economic Interrelationships of Agriculture With Other Branches of the National Economy," adopted in conformity with the decisions handed down during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

This decree outlines a broad complex of measures for regulating price formation for agricultural products. In particular, it has been established that when determining the purchasing price level for agricultural products for the next five-year plan emphasis should be placed upon the need for achieving the branch norm for total profitability, with consideration being given to the planned production and purchasing volumes for the agricultural products, capital supply for the farms, the wage level and other planned expenditures for producing the agricultural products, while calling for an increase in the efficiency of agricultural production, improvements in the use of fixed and working capital and and a reduction in material expenditures.

Under the existing conditions for determining the actual expenditures for producing goods, it is difficult to discuss the establishment of a sound price ratio when making reimbursement for expenses in the APK branches. It would be more correct, during subsequent stages in implementing improvements in the economic mechanism, to solve this problem based upon the ONZT for the branch's final output.

An objective need exists for constructing a price model that is not isolated or closed for just one specialized branch, but which takes into account the national economic proportions, financial opportunities and the degree of material support in the form of monetary funds received, that is, the problem regarding a system of planned prices for the APK.

The conversion over to a single method for validating a price system for the APK necessarily raises the need for centralizing the entire system of price formation such that the branches will not establish the prices (based upon their own interests), but rather the prices will take into account mainly the interests of the APK and stimulate high final results for it.

In the case of tasks which are made available to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes on a centralized basis, the state is forced to cover all expenditures associated with the production of goods on poor lands which were drawn into social production in a planned manner. The best, average and worst conditions for production are objective in nature. Hence, a mechanism is required for distributing the diferentiated incomes. Its maximum effectiveness is possible only on the basis of an economic evaluation of the land and other resources. The introduction of rent payments, taking into account the quality of the land, possesses a number of advantages compared to the differentiation of prices. First of all, this concerns strengthening the cost accounting relationships, since the availability of an evaluation of the resources makes it possible to provide practically each farm with sound rental rates. Secondly, all earnings obtained as a result of intensification and a higher level of administration will in this instance remain on the farms and be used for raising the material interest of the workers in further increasing the production of goods.

Any deviation in a price from the ONZT signifies a modification of it. It derives from the fact that, based upon the formation of converted forms of value, the social value assumes local differentiation and individualization (see V.S. Nemchinov. Selected Works. Moscow, 1969, Vol. 6, p 235). In the process, society conscientiously registers a number of expenditures at the level for a region, zone or group of farms, for the purpose of differentiating their accounting and creating roughly equal managerial conditions. During the first stage the regional expenditure levels for the agricultural products and their corresponding purchase price level must be determined. During the second stage the regional prices are differentiated by krays, oblasts and republics, taking into account the actual existing expenditures and the assigned rates of production.

The economic importance of purchase price differentiation lies not only in finding sound deviations in actual expenditures corresponding to the territorial peculiarities of production and the purchase prices, for the purpose of creating equal reproduction conditions, but also in furnishing assistance in removing a considerable portion of the rental incomes both

for the centralized net income of the state and also for redistribution among the agricultural enterprises.

The virtues and shortcomings of differentiated prices can and must be debated and yet at the same time one must recognize the fact that during a given stage in the development of agricultural production and in the absence of a generally recognized system for evaluating land and other resources, they are most effective. When completing a cost evaluation for all production resources, differentiated and accounting prices yield their leading role to rent and fixed payments.

In the process of gradually converting over to common prices, a great functional load is imposed upon the accounting prices, which appear as a planning lever for taking into account and making reimbursement for the socially required expenditures. Their use under conditions involving inter-farm cooperation and agroindustrial integration is making it possible to take into account those expenses which develop in an objective manner during the stage of simple reproduction. This is especially important in the case of specialization by stages or technological specialization, wherein the interrelationships of cost accounting enterprises are viewed as commodity-monetary relationships, with the leading one being an integrator-enterprise which sells the products directly to the state.

The system of contractual (accounting) prices can be supplemented by rent payments or fixed grants for enterprises which operate respectively under objectively good or bad conditions.

Further improvements in planning and its efficiency will be greatly dependent upon the development of and improvements in the principle of democratic centralism. "Deomcratic centralism is a tested principle for organizing all life in a socialist society" stated Yu.V. Andropov, "It makes it possible to combine successfully the free creativity of the masses with the advantages of a single system for scientific management, planning and administration (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No. 3, p 19).

The role played by the centralized principle at the upper level of APK administration is constantly increasing, since it is precisely here that balanced rates of development are defined for all of its branches and an efficient combination of branch and territorial planning implemented.

Improvements in inter-branch relationships require definite proportionality in their development. V.I. Lenin emphasized the fact that constant and conscious supportive proportionality in reality signifies an orderly system. Proper order produces the greatest results under the conditions of a self-adjusting system (ideally, the national economic APK should be just such a system and this is the result of an efficiently functioning economic mechanism. In other words -- the reality of assigning and fulfilling the plan is determined by the effectiveness of the cost accounting methods for production management.

In this regard, more and more importance is being attached to further improving the commodity-monetary relationships and to taking into account more fully the law of value in the system of economic laws. As is known, K. Marx viewed the

category of value as an attitude of people and not as an element of bookkeeping accountability. Over the past two decades, a great amount of attention has been given to a quantitative expression of the law of value through prices. Such an approach is oriented somewhat towards the consumer, it does not take demand into account, it is extremely rigid and it requires severe limitations, which are introduced into the plan with the aid of natural indicators.

Although severe centralized planning proved its worth during the war and post-war periods, it nevertheless requires improvements at the present time. K. Marx wrote that the law of value takes shape finally in monetary form. This presupposes, as a variant, the conversion over to definite stages with regard to the value forms for the plan, that is, to a higher qualitative level while taking into account the demand and market conditions. Planning is carried out not from the standpoint of production but from the standpoint of the consumer.

Under the conditions imposed by public ownership of the means of production, commodity-monetary relationships manifest themselves as being according to plan and their effectiveness is dependent upon whether or not they stimulate fulfillment of the plan. Such planning, based upon a combination of price and natural indicators, presupposes more extensive use of all elements of the economic mechanism and improvements in the significance and true value of the ruble.

Improvements in APK planning must pass through a number of sequential stages and this makes it possible to carry out checks on the manner in which corrections are being introduced into the planning system and also to train suitable personnel. During the first stage, the plans made available to oblasts, krays and republics should ideally be limited to the volumes for shipments beyond their limits, after having presented the local organs of management with more extensive economic powers for ensuring that the local population is provided with field crop husbandry and animal husbandry products. During the second stage -- to ensure a priority for the cost accounting methods associated with producing the products required for the consumer and for the state.

In speaking in behalf of expanded independence for enterprises in economic matters, V.I. Lenin considered that the "conversion of state enterprises over to so-called cost accounting operations is inevitably and inseparably associated with the new economic policy and in the near future this type will become the predominant type if not the only such type" (Complete Works, Vol. 44, pp 342-343). In the process, he emphasized "...with maximum freedom for maneuvering, with a strict check being carried out on the actual successes in raising production and profitability, with the best and most skilled administrators being selected in a very serious manner..." (ibid, p 345).

Improvements in the economic mechanism assumes an intensification in the role played by the various types of agreements or contracts. A direct contract, as the most promising lever for planned control over the development of the APK branches, must exert influence on the producers of the means of production and also upon the objects of consumption. In contracts for the delivery of means

of production, the specific nature of the local conditions and the farming and animal husbandry systems in use must be taken into account in a very strict manner.

A contractual system used at a given stage and at various APK levels is still not an effective instrument for regulating inter-branch relationships owing to the diverse interests of the partners, the planned tasks are not always sound ones, the penalties for violations are negligible, there is too much willingness to maintain good relations with the suppliers even in the face of shortages, the absence of legal support for a contract for the full volume of losses, insufficient personal responsibility or interest in meeting the deadlines set forth in a contract and so forth.

V.I. Lenin believed that responsibility for the profitability of enterprises must be borne by all members of the administration for trusts and enterprises which converted over to cost accounting (see: Complete Works, Vol. 54, p 150), that is, we have in mind here personal responsibility. A 12 August 1983 decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet stipulates that manual and office workers bear material responsibility for damage which they caused in the amount of the actual damage but not more than one third of their average monthly earnings.

Obviously, in addition to including in a contract a statement concerning the inevitability of personal material responsibility, influence must also be exerted on the material incentive fund and the wage fund when the contracts are violated.

The mentioned measures are reflected in the above mentioned decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improvements in the Economic Interrelationships of Agriculture With Other Branches of the national economy." Great changes will be introduced into the existing system for planning and utilizing the profits of those enterprises and organizations that provide services for agriculture. This will make it possible to increase considerably the interest of these enterprises and organizations in achieving high final results in the production of agricultural products and for raising their material and legal responsibility for quality and timeliness in supplying agriculture with products of a production-technical nature and for services rendered.

During the first stage, the concept of the economic mechanism in the sphere of finances and credits must call for improvements in the distribution and use of budgetary and credit resources and during the second stage -- the introduction of a system of payments for the types of budgetary resources (with the exception of special construction projects), the presentation of credit in accordance with the first requirement, with the guarantee of return and the presence of a contractual organization and priority in the issuing of credit to those farms which can ensure the most efficient use of such credit.

The financing and issuing of credit for capital expenditures of the APK branches should ideally be concentrated in the same hands and in the same bank. In any case, this will make it possible to utilize the available resources in a more concentrated and efficient manner and to increase control over them. At the

present time, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry are being financed by Gosbank and the USSR Ministry of Procurements, the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry and the USSR Ministry of Trade -- by Stroybank.

The program for achieving an intensive type of reproduction is directly associated with intensifying the cost accounting methods. Their introduction (that is, the conversion over to managing production more and more by means of internal savings) requires a simultaneous solution for the problem of logistical support. In view of the fact that as a result of diverse natural, economic and other conditions, considerable differences always take place in the resultant indicators of enterprises (which in the final analysis are manifested in the amount of profit obtained), a need arises for differentiated logistical support. If this is not available -- the stimuli for efficient work will be lost. A system of payments, taxes and so forth can smooth out the problem, but it will not eliminate it. It would be better for an operating enterprise (all other conditions being equal) not only to stimulate its workers but also to have more favorable conditions for logistical support and this is fully possible with decentralized supply. At the RAPO level, this signifies that the requirements of those solvent enterprises which are providing a maximum increase in output and profit per unit of resources invested must be satisfied first of all. Improvements in the level of management for low profitability enterprises can be achieved by means of the centralized funds of RAPO.

The economic mechanism of the APK must be directed towards maximizing the final product, with adequate effectiveness for the assigned rates of reproduction. This can be achieved both through efficient work by all of the constituent elements of the APK (ideal variant) and also by differentiation of the effect depending upon the availability of resources, social order, production priorities and development of the particular branch.

In solving the problems concerned with wages and bonuses, further improvements must be realized in the effectiveness of the system of private and public interests. Progress in the level achieved in production relationships and their effect on growth in productive forces will be greatly dependent upon a continuous system of economic interests of an effective economic mechanism that is directed towards achieving the final results.

When converting over to normative planning for the wage fund and to extensive use of the brigade contract method in all branches of the APK, stern limitations on staff scheduling should be rejected. Even in the case of retaining the existing wage fund, this will make it possible, through the introduction of an extensive system of additional payments for having more than one profession, to alleviate the personnel problem.

A more effective system must be developed for coordinating branch interests with the final indicators of the APK, a system which will be based upon the principles of material interest and responsibility. One variant for merging the collective interests of all spheres of the APK with public interests is that of employing the economic stimulation funds, especially the material incentive funds, the norms for which must be coordinated with growth in output. It appears advisable to form common material incentive funds for the APK, centralizing in them an appropriate portion of the profits of all of its spheres. Their further expansion by spheres and branches should ideally be

carried out taking into account the fulfillment of contractual obligations based upon norms developed earlier, norms which have only low limits.

The minimum amount of material incentive funds is computed for the planned volume of final output and is not limited to the upper limit, thus creating in this manner stimuli for all spheres of the APK in the production of the maximum amount of final output with minimal expenditures of labor and resources.

In the concept for the economic mechanism of the APK, an exceptionally great role must be played by legal regulation of economic relationships, which must ensure strict discipline and order. Complications arise here in connection with frequent violations of delivery contracts, weak effectiveness of sanctions and the existence in addition to the statute on deliveries approved by the USSR Council of Ministers of other special delivery conditions approved by USSR Gossnab. The legal service of the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other enterprises of the APK requires unification. A need obviously exists for expanding the rights and obligations of state arbitration.

Improvements in the economic mechanism and its effectiveness are greatly dependent upon a complex of factors, many of which are of a non-economic nature. Here we have in mind mainly ideological support for the proposed measures, their scientific handling and for the personnel. The APK requires literate and cultured workers. Moreover, literacy is not a synonym for culture. According to an apt expression by V.I. Lenin: "...literacy by itself is not enough. We also require tremendous improvements in culture" (Complete Works, Vol. 44, p 170). "Is something lacking? A standard of culture and an ability to administer..." (ibid, Vol. 45, p 416). The vital nature of these Leninist utterances is of exceptional importance during a given stage in the functioning of the national economic APK. Definite reorganization is required for the training of highly skilled specialists and also the introduction of an APK program in all of the departments of agricultural and economic VUZ's which are turning out the necessary specialists. Specialists of the "APK planner-economist type" should be trained for the prevailing new forms of administration.

The reorganization of the economic mechanism is impossible in the absence of a combination of thorough theoretical, methodological and experimental studies. Such a combination promotes an accumulation of fundamental knowledge, which in turn makes it possible to obtain completely specific practical results. In his "Philosophical Notebooks," V.I. Lenin emphasized that: "Practical experience is more important than knowledge (theoretical), since in addition to its virtue of being general in nature it is also characterized by direct reality" (Complete Works, Vol. 29, p 195).

The experience accumulated throughout the country in improving the economic mechanism in the APK for administrative rayons can serve as a fine foundation for converting over to experiments at a higher regional level (oblast or kray), where the interbranch relationships are considerably more complicated.

The purpose of such experiments -- to achieve considerable growth in the volumes of final APK output through more extensive use of socio-economic factors. In the process, it should be emphasized once again that the economic

mechanism operates effectively on public production only when use is being made of an all-round approach in the development of all of its elements. In this regard, those rayons, oblasts (krays) and republics which carried out experiments on a continuous basis aimed at improving and raising the efficiency of the APK throughout the country must be singled out and strengthened.

> From the Editorial Board. The problems concerned with improving the economic mechanism, as set forth in this article, are certainly of a vital nature. At the same time, individual positions taken by the author are open to debate. In this regard, the Editorial Board requests the readers to share their opinions concerning the problems discussed.

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COUNTER SALE OF INDUSTRIAL CROPS IN UKRAINE REVIEWED

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 9, Sep 83 pp 24-28

/Article by A.M. Shpichak, Candidate of Economic Sciences and senior scientific worker at UkrNIIESKh: "Counter Sale of Products During Procurements of Technical Crops, Its Essence and Improvements"/

/Text/ The economic interrelationships of agricultural enterprises with the sphere of procurements and the processing of technical crops are based upon the use of prices, stimulating the work of leaders and specialists at agricultural enterprises at the expense of a procurement specialist and carrying out the counter sale of products.

The counter sale of products has adequate economic justification and plays an important role in the production of technical crops.

Let us examine those problems concerned with bartering for the sale to the state of the principal technical crops being cultivated in the Ukraine (sugar beets, sunflowers and spinning flax).

For sugar beets sold to the state in accordance with the appropriate norms and prices (reduced, wholesale and retail prices), the farms are supplied with sugar, pulp residue, molasses, mixed feed; for sunflower seed -- vegetable oil, mixed feed, oilcake; for flax products -- mixed feed and grain forage.

The counter sale of products for the sale of technical crops came about owing to a number of factors, the principal ones of which are the need for additional material stimulation for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the direct producers of the labor-intensive crops and particularly for increasing their production, and also the need for ensuring that those farms which grow technical crops on their own large land areas are supplied with feed resources. One of the principal reasons for implementing counter sales for definite types of products -- scarcities in those products. The elimination of scarcities creates real prerequisites for eliminating the counter sale of products. For example, the need for selling salt, textiles and tobacco for sugar beets and linen, cotton fabrics, bags, rope and other goods for flax products, as was done during the 1920's, has disappeared.

From this standpoint, we consider the statement by some economists that the bartering of state procurements of agricultural products should be viewed as

the development of a product exchange system to be unwarranted. It is our opinion that the need for beet growers to barter pulp residue disappears with the elimination of a feed shortage, since its acquisition will be based only upon commodity-money relationships. It bears mentioning in this regard that a counter sale of products is lacking in certain beet growing countries of the world. Moreover, it should be noted that the combining of the branches of beet production and cattle husbandry in one farm is not mandatory.

In the Ukraine, the counter sale of products for the sale of technical crops involves considerable volumes (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

Counter Sale of Sugar and Pulp Residue for Sugar Beets Sold To the State in the Ukrainian SSR

Years	Sugar			Pulp residue		
	Total sold, thous. of tons	Per Ton of Beets, in kilograms	Per hectare in quintals	Total Sold, millions of tons	Per Ton of Beets, in kilograms	Per hectare, in quintals
1977	286.7	5.65	160.5	31.7	62.5	177.5
1978	263.6	5.54	145.5	32.7	68.8	180.6
1979	226.5	5.27	126.3	27.3	63.6	152.0
1980	185.9	5.04	104.7	22.9	62.1	129.0
1981	159.0	4.91	91.3	21.3	66.5	122.3
1977-1981	224.3	5.33	125.8	27.2	64.7	152.6

It is apparent from the data in the Table and on the average for the 1977-1981 period, that 125.8 kilograms of sugar, 152.6 quintals of fresh pulp residue and 248 kilograms of mixed feed and molasses were sold to the farms in the form of counter sales per hectare of sugar beet sowing.

For sunflower seed, 3-5 kilograms of mixed feed and 6-10 kilograms of preferred sunflower oil were obtained per hectare. For flax products, the farms in the Ukrainian SSR were allocated 6.2 quintals of grain forage and mixed feed per hectare of spinning flax sowing. In the process, it was established that the republic's kolkhozes are being allocated approximately 9 quintals of grain for grain forage per hectare of grain crops. Thus the counter sale of products in connection with the sale of technical crops is promoting to a considerable degree the availability of feed for animal husbandry.

One shortcoming of the existing system of bartering lies in the fact that the norms for the sale of products are established based upon various criteria. Thus, some types are sold to the farms in the same amounts for plan and above-plan raw materials and others -- according to higher norms for above-plan output. Counter sales are stimulated first of all by over-fulfillment of the annual plans for procurements, secondly by raising the average level achieved for them during the past 3 years and, thirdly, during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan. The existing shortcoming in the counter sale of products derives from the fact that it is being carried out regardless of the quality of the raw materials procured by the state and without taking into account the schedules for the sale of the products.

Studies which we carried out in many raw material zones for the production of technical crops have established the fact that the principles for the counter sales of products must be standardized. We are of the opinion that it would be more correct to establish the norms for the sale of products not based upon over-fulfillment of the annual plan or for surpassing the level achieved for the preceeding 3 years, but rather based upon the raw materials sold to the state over and above the average level of procurements achieved during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan. This principle will make it possible, with sufficient objectivity, to employ incentive measures for increasing state procurements in a common plan with the existing economic stimuli (50 percent bonus added on to the price), aimed at increasing the production of goods.

The most progressive (ideal) means in our opinion may be that of stimulating the enterprises and workers into fulfilling an annual procurement plan that was established taking into account the specific production resources of each farm. However, such a method for handling a procurement plan is lacking and among the existing methodological methods we consider it justified to issue incentives for raising the level achieved during the 10th Five-Year Plan, particularly in view of the fact that the criterion for reliability in the existing methodological approaches for planning the state procurement volumes and the gross production volumes is a comparison of the plan indicators against the level achieved during the past five-year plan.

Improvements are required in the system of counter sales of products for sugar beets sold to the state from feed sowings. An additional payment in the amount of 30 percent is added onto the price for it and bartering is carried out in accordance with the norms established for above-plan beets. However, it is our opinion that such stimulation is inadequate. The turning over of beets from feed sowings causes damage to the feed resources of beet growing farms and thus the stimulation for the sale of such beets must be carried out by compensating for the feed. In this regard, pulp residue and molasses obtained from the processing of beets and 1.5-2.0 kilograms of mixed feed per quintal of raw material should be issued for the sale of beets.

For the sale of raw materials of a higher quality, we consider it necessary to establish raised norms for the counter sale of products. We cannot consider as fair a situation in which the same amount of sugar is sold at a reduced price for 1 quintal of beets of varying sugar contents. It is deemed advisable to sell 500 grams of sugar at a reduced price for 1 quintal of beets of the basic sugar content and for each percent of increase (decrease) in the sugar content, the norm for the sale of sugar should be increased (or decreased) by 6-7 percent.

In the case of sunflower seed sales, the counter sale of products should be carried out taking into account the quality of the raw material.

The norms for the counter sale of grain forage should ideally be differentiated depending upon the quality of the flax products being sold. Table 2 provides information on these norms, computed taking into account the grade numbers. When turning over flax products the quality of which is higher or lower than the indicated average numbers, the amount of grain forage (mixed feed) sold is raised or lowered respectively based upon the norm established for 1 quintal of fiber for a particular number. For example, 80 kilograms of grain forage are

sold for 1 quintal of Number 10 fiber, for one grade number -- 8 kilograms (80:10). Hence it is possible to compute the norm for the sale of grain forage for all of the grain products. Thus, for Number 16 flax fiber or higher and for stock and Number 2.5 straw or higher, the norm for the sale of grain forage per grade number should be increased by 50-80 percent.

TABLE 2

Proposed System for the Counter Sale of Grain Forage for the Sale of Flax Products, With Its Quality Being Taken Into Account

Type and Quality of Flax Product	Norms for Sale of Grain Forage for Flax Products Delivered To the State, kg.	
	For deliveries in the amount achieved on the average during the preceeding five-year plan	For deliveries in excess of level achieved during preceding five-year plan
1 quintal of Number 10 flax fiber	80	100
1 quintal of Number 1 stock	25	30
1 quintal of Number 1 straw	20	25

It is our opinion that the proposed system for counter sales of products, taking the quality of the raw materials into account, will stimulate the agricultural enterprises and direct executive agents into raising the sugar content of the industrial beets and the oil content of the sunflower seed, lowering the acidity number for the seed and so forth.

The opinion exists that a reduction should take place in the norm for the counter sales of products or that the sale of certain types of these products should be abolished. This applies in particular to abolishing the counter sale of sugar and monetary compensation for the difference between the retail and reduced price. This question arose in connection with definite difficulties associated with supplying the population with sugar and the existence of surpluses in sugar issued on the basis of bartering compared to the generally accepted norms for its consumption. It bears mentioning that on the average during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan and in connection with counter sales, approximately 400,000 tons of sugar were sold to the country's beet growing farms, including 250,000 tons in the Ukrainian SSR, or 4-5 percent of its production from domestic raw materials. Truly, with an increase in the level of mechanization and a decrease in the number of beet growers engaged in cultivating sugar beets, the amount of sugar being obtained by them on the basis of counter sales is increasing. The need for reducing the norms for the sale of sugar is justified from this standpoint. It is for this reason that it has decreased in a systematic manner. Thus, during the 1920's the norm amounted to more than 4.5 kilograms of sugar per quintal of beets delivered, in 1956 650 grams were issued to kolkhozes in the Ukrainian SSR and for overfulfillment of the contractual plan -- another 800-1,000 grams of sugar. Since 1960, as is known, the norm for the sale of sugar to kolkhozes has been established at 500 grams per quintal and for beet production teams -- another 500 additional grams for each quintal of overfulfillment of the procurement plan by a team. Since 1981 the amount of sugar being delivered in the form of

counter sales has decreased. Nevertheless, we feel that a further reduction or even abolishing counter sales in sugar would be premature. A reduction in the norms for the sale of sugar, especially in cases involving non-fulfillment of the state plans for beet procurements, adversely affects the work of workers out on the beet fields. It is appropriate to mention in this regard that the introduction in 1959 of only limited norms for the sale of sugar led to negative results in beet production. These limitations were abolished in 1960.

We cannot recognize as valid the opinion by specialists which holds that the abolishment of counter sales of sugar will lead to an increase in the state sugar resources. Our computations have shown that during the 1976-1980 period there was an average of approximately 42 kilograms of favorably priced sugar per beet grower in the Ukrainian SSR, with his family (4 individuals) being taken into account. Moreover, it was established that one resident in Kirovograd Oblast consumed an average of 41.6 kilograms of sugar during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, that is, within the limits of the all-union norms for consumption. This provides us with the basis for stating that a reduction in or the abolishment of counter sales in sugar will raise the need for increasing its supplies in the retail trade.

True, some beet growers attached to leading farms and teams which have achieved rather high beet yields are owed quantities of sugar on the basis of counter sales that surpass to a considerable degree the generally accepted consumption norms. However, consumer cooperation is purchasing this sugar on a voluntary basis. Thus, of 449,600 tons of sugar obtained by the republic's beet growers on the average during the 1976-1980 period, 23,100 tons were sold to consumer cooperation. In the future, more extensive use must be made of the practice of purchasing surplus sugar from the population. Towards this end, construction materials or other deficit goods should be sold to the beet growers in exchange for sugar at a reduced price.

It bears mentioning that both in the republic and throughout the country as a whole, the principle of monetary compensation by a sugar plant for sugar at a reduced price is not being employed on an extensive scale. Thus, although 23,100 tons of sugar were purchased by consumer cooperation in the Ukrainian SSR, on the average during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, the amount of compensation was only for 400-420 tons, or less by a factor of 55.

Analysis has established the fact that monetary compensation for the counter sale of reduced price sugar, directly at a sugar plant, is being carried out to only a limited degree owing to economic factors. Actually, at a sugar plant the beet growers are paid for the reduced price sugar for the difference between the retail (78 kopecks per kilogram) and the reduced (38 kopecks per kilogram) price and also a trade reduction (10-12 percent) applied to the retail price. It is more profitable for the beet growers to obtain all of the reduced price sugar from a plant and to sell the surplus amounts through consumer cooperation, which does not withdraw the trade discount.

With the availability of sugar in the retail trade, it would be wrong to expect that the abolishment of counter sales will reduce its use for non-food purposes. The abolishment of counter sales in sugar is also considered to be undesirable

from the standpoint that during the summer months (a period devoted to the mass preparation of jellies and jams made from local fruits and berries) interruptions in the supply of sugar occur in the rural stores. In view of the existing shortcomings in the organization of fruit and berry procurements in the rural areas, the absence of the required amounts of sugar leads to an increase and great losses in the fruit and berry products.

A study on the economic feasibility of counter sales of oil for sunflower seed was carried out by us from the standpoint of analyzing the sources for supplying it to the farms and the channels for its use. The principal source for supplying the republic's kolkhozes with oil -- the processing of internally produced seed. During the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, this source produced an average of 38,400 tons of oil and bartering -- 20,100 tons. In the process it was established that the principal amount of oil due on the basis of bartering for sunflower seed is not supplied to the farms in natural form. In the majority of instances, consumer cooperation acquires orders for obtaining the oil and pays the farms for the difference between its retail and reduced price.

Analysis has shown that the principal amount of oil (93 percent) is used for sale beyond the borders of a farm and only a small portion -- for wages (0.4 percent) and for intra-farm needs (6.6 percent).

Thus the counter sale of oil in natural form has ceased to play a substantial role. It is of great importance only for consumer cooperation in the carrying out of a commodity circulation plan.

The question of organizing counter sales of feed for sunflower seed warrants special attention. Prior to 1973, the sunflower seed that was sold was bartered for oilcake in the appropriate norms. Since 1973, mixed feed has been sold in place of oilcake. An analysis of actual data for farms in the Ukrainian SSR during the 1976-1980 period has established the fact that the substitution of mixed feed for oilcake has not reduced but rather increased feed deliveries to the farms in a conversion for feed units. Meanwhile, the supplies of digestible protein on the farms have declined. In the face of an overall protein deficit, the shortfall in it caused by abolishment of oilcake sales has had an adverse effect on the fulfillment of the state plans for seed procurements. The farms are striving to take advantage of the right extended to them to direct a portion of the seed for processing, upon the condition that the procurement plan is fulfilled. Thus the kolkhozes imeni XXI S"yezda KPSS and 60 Let Oktyabrya in Genicheskiy Rayon in Kherson Oblast, after fulfilling their state procurement plans for 1979-1980 by 106 and 108 percent, turned over 34.9 and 44.8 percent respectively of their gross seed production for processing.

The principal goal of the processing -- to obtain oilcake and sunflower oil. This is producing tremendous economic results, especially in connection with the sale to paint and varnish enterprises of oil that is deemed unsuitable for food purposes. Thus, the kolkhozes imeni XXI S"yezda KPSS and 60 Let Oktyabrya in Genicheskiy Rayon, on the average for 1979-1980 and per hectare of sunflower sowing, realized a net profit from the sale of oil that was several times higher than that obtained from the sale of seed to the state.

The bartering of oilcake for sunflower seed sold, introduced in 1982, is of great importance for eliminating the mentioned shortcomings in the system of state procurements. In the interest of further increasing the volume of state procurements of the seed, it is our opinion that the counter sale of oilcake should be established for products sold over and above the procurement level for the 10th Five-Year Plan. In addition, economic stimuli should be introduced in amounts which will make it profitable for the farms to sell seed to the state. In the case of kolkhozes and sovkhozes which do not have a seed procurement plan, the acceptance of seed from them should be carried out on a customer-supplied basis for processing purposes, with all of the oilcake processed from the mentioned seed and 50 percent of the vegetable oil obtained being returned to the farms.

The practice of redistributing the feed resources owed to some farms on the basis of counter sales for technical crops, among other farms in a region, must be forbidden.

From the standpoint of the existing system of counter sales of products, it is our opinion that improvements must be carried out in the system for computing the indicators for economic efficiency in the production of technical crops. When computing these indicators and also the indicator for the optimal level of profitability, it will be necessary to take into account the additional funds which farms obtain from the counter sales of products at reduced prices and the funds allocated by the procurement organizations for awarding bonuses to the farm leaders and specialists. It bears mentioning that these sums reach considerable amounts. Thus, when the republic's beet growing farms obtained 449,000 tons of sugar at a reduced price on the average for the 1976-1980 period, the difference between the retail and reduced price amounted to 94.8 million rubles, with 15.3 million rubles being issued in the form of bonuses by the procurement organizations. Thus the monetary receipts from beet production increased by 110.1 million rubles, or by 65 rubles per hectare of beet sowing. This money is used almost completely for wages for the beet growers.

We are of the opinion that the proposed improvement in counter sales for products will promote an increase in the production of technical crops and that the recommendations for improving the computation of the indicators of economic efficiency for their production are making it possible to reflect in a more objective manner the economics of the branches.

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ACCOUNT OF PRIVATE PLOT EXPERIENCE IN LITHUANIA, FOLLOW-UP COMMENTARY

Problems of Development Reviewed

Moscow SEL'SKAYA NOV' in Russian No 5, May 83 pp 12-13

/Article by Balis Karalyus, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences and senior scientific worker at the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture: "Not a Private Concern"/

/Text/ On Saturday and Sunday, instead of idly watching television, my wife, son and I went to visit our daughter and son-in-law, who work at a kolkhoz in Radvilishkskiy Rayon -- to help them with the planting and harvesting of potatoes, the transporting of farmyard manure and the procurement of hay. Our daughter has her own home and private plot. She and her husband raise 1-2 hogs for themselves and for us and also one for sale to the state. They deliver milk each day to the dairy point. They maintain a sheep (for shashlik and a sheepskin) and also chickens (we do not have to buy eggs in a store). I place my own barley at their disposal (I will discuss this factor again later) for feeding to the hogs, cows and chickens.

My daughter and son-in-law do not forget me when cutting up the hogs, sheep or even chickens. Thus I rarely visit a delicatessen. My comrades and friends also go into the countryside in the spring and summer -- to assist their own in carrying out the farm work and in turn the rural relatives supply the city-dwellers with high quality products in kind. This is typical of the Lithuanian countryside.

Many farms in the Lithuanian SSR have accumulated interesting experience in interacting with the LPKh's /private plots/ of kolkhoz members and manual and office workers.

At an experimental farm of the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Farming (where I work), private sowings of barley have been grown on crop rotation plan fields since 1971. As a specialist, the farm allocated 0.25 hectares of land for my use (0.5 hectares to workers). The farm sows barley on a portion of it -- 0.19 hectares -- and since 1982, winter wheat as well. I do not know where my barley and wheat are growing. Prior to the harvest, for seed and work to be carried out, I am required to make a small payment to the farm (in accordance with the production cost for the work to be carried out) -- and subsequently I will be supplied with barley and wheat from the farm's storehouse (more or less -- depending upon the harvest).

Many of us grow potatoes to satisfy our own personal requirements. And also out on the fields of the farm, which carries out all work commencing with loosening of the stubble and applying organic and mineral fertilizers and ending with spring tilling of the soil, planting of potatoes and combating diseases, pests and weeds. Each individual knows his own plot out on the potato field and harvests it himself.

At the Lishkyava Kolkhoz in Varenskiy Rayon, the private economy is also the object of attention by the specialists and leaders. The majority of the kolkhoz members, pensioners and workers in the sphere of services are maintaining not only hogs but also cows, heifers and sheep; potatoes and barley are being grown on the private plot land. It is understandable that machine operators are in high demand during the spring sowing and crop tending periods and also during the hay-making season. Gratitude is expressed to them in some areas in the form of "entertainment," or more precisely, vodka. At the Lishkyava Kolkhoz, according to its chairman Vitautas Chesnulyavichyus, this is a rarity. The farm's administration has defined the prices for services. An individual pays a visit to the bookkeeping office, submits a payment and is given a receipt for the plowing up of his plot, the planting of potatoes using a planter, the transporting of farmyard manure, the tilling of soil using a cultivator or for the combine threshing of barley. A machine operator receives payment from the operator of a plot in the form of these receipts and they form the basis for his earnings and for taking other indicators into account. If somebody, "out of the kindness of his soul," entertains a machine operator with wine or vodka, and it is difficult to conceal this in the rural areas, both will come to regret it: the work for which the operator paid will be done over again and the machine operator will be deprived of a bonus.

In this same Varenskiy Rayon, all of the residents of the settlements of Perloya and Nadzinge grow barley and potatoes on crop rotation plan tracts of the local experimental station. The system is as follows: having paid for the seed, fertilizer and work carried out, an individual receives pure and dry grain in the autumn. He procures his own straw or the amount required is delivered to him. Not every individual gathers up all of his straw; a portion remains for the public farms.

Immediately after the potatoes have been planted on the farm's fields, the personnel together with their equipment join in the work to be carried out in the private sector. Here the chemical processing of the fields must also be carried out by the farm's machine operators. The meadows and pastures surrounding the settlement of Perloya are divided up into plots on which the privately owned cows, heifers and sheep graze. These sectors are tended (fertilizer applications, restoration of grass cover) in the same manner as the public pastures.

The plots must be watched over in like manner as the cows and heifers. The owners of the private plots take turns in carrying out this work. Usually pensioners or students serve as shepherds. A family stands one "duty watch" per month.

Such an attitude towards the private economy in Varenskiy Rayon not only aids in amortizing the shortage of working hands and the aging of the rural

settlements, but in addition it also promotes the annual fulfillment and over-fulfillment of the procurement plans for potatoes, milk and meat on the private plots in the absence of a great amount of tension.

The procurement of hay is organized in a clever manner at an experimental farm of the Radvilishkis Experimental Station. Here the cows also graze on cultivated pastures and the personnel are assigned tracts on which the grass has already been cut down for the purpose of procuring hay for the winter indoor maintenance period. But such tracts are assigned only to those who have their own frame rakes for drying the hay. It is not advisable for a large farm to dry hay on frame rakes, since this work is not mechanized and any family is capable of drying 2-3 tons of hay using 6-8 frame rakes. The quality of hay dried out on frame rakes is no worse than that dried out using forced ventilation with warm air.

Many similar examples can be found in our republic. However, many hindrances stand in the way of developing the private economy. And this is by no means a private concern.

For example, the state purchases large quantities of potatoes from the LPKh's and hence is interested in their quality and yields. But on a majority of the private plots the potatoes are grown using the methods employed by our grandfathers and great-grandfathers. The seed -- a mixture of various [illegible] varieties. Nor is any system or degree of organization being used for strain renewal purposes. The land being used for potatoes is being fertilized using only farmyard manure or mineral fertilizers which are found in stores. Usually no crop rotation plan is employed on the private plots. This leads to the spread of diseases, pests and weeds. Nor is the situation any better with regard to the feed base and breeding work in private animal husbandry operations. In short, we are employing antiquated methods.

Yet we are living in a period in which any type of production operation must be carried out on a scientific basis. This applies also to private plots. Unfortunately, there is not one scientist at the scientific institutes who specializes in private plot affairs.

Each individual who manages a private plot is aware that even on the same plot the soil can vary in terms of nutrient content. And the private plots of individual owners differ to an even greater degree. In the absence of accurate information, fertilizer may not produce the desired results. However, one fact remains clear: agrochemical services for private plots are not included in the plans for agrochemical laboratories. Orchard workers and gardeners -- even in the city -- find themselves in the same situation.

And would it not be good if it were possible to send soil samples to a cost accounting subunit of an agrochemical laboratory and, after paying the required amount for analysis, obtain the necessary information and a recommendation -- as to how much and which fertilizers should be applied by the customer in behalf of his crop and whether it should be grown under a polyethylene film or outdoors.

It bears mentioning that the chemical plants which supply the mineral fertilizers for the so-called market fund indicate on the packages of urea,

ammophos, ammonium nitrate and other fertilizers how many grams of these fertilizers must be applied per square meter or to a pail of water for a foliar top dressing for certain crops, with no stipulation being made that the fertilizer dosage depends upon the nutrient content in the soil. They also pass over in silence the fact that one type of fertilizer in ineffective in the absence of others and that the ratio for the principal nutrients must be observed during fertilization. Quite often the nutrient percentages are omitted in the long formulas displayed on the packaging materials.

The scientific institutes are staffed with a sufficient number of skilled agrochemicsts who are capable of preparing sensible recommendations for the owners of private plots.

There is still one other detail. Quite often certain kolkhozes contrive to purchase their market fund fertilizers from Lithuanian and other republics. It is easier for a salesman to fulfill his financial plan and he encounters fewer problems when he is able to sell the fertilizer not in 3 kilogram bags but rather in dump trucks.

Or permit me to cite an example. This is now the sixth year that I have asked the manager of the farm store in our settlement to provide us with ground chalk or other lime materials suitable for liming the soil. Such requests have been futile. It turns out that the lime materials are being poured into paper bags at the plants, which subsequently rip apart while still at the bases. Thus the salesmen are neither ordering or receiving them. It is a cheap and dirty product and one which has only a negligible effect on the plan.

At a majority of the private plots, the seed being used consists of a mixture of different varieties of potatoes. At the same time, strain renewal work for vegetable and flower crops is organized rather well in Lithuania. The Lithuanian seed production farms even ship considerable amounts of high quality material for high reproductions to other republics. Why is it then that they cannot provide such service for the owners of private plots?

The saying "do not expect a good generation from poor seed" applies to animal husbandry operations, including those carried out on private plots. And the contribution made by these plots to state procurements is considerable: in many regions of the republic the LPKh's furnish one fifth of the meat and approximately one third of the milk. This contribution could be higher if a rural resident maintained only pedigree and regionalized strains of livestock, as is the case in the state and public sectors. However, more often than not the kolkhozes and sovkhozes make available for use on the private plots heifers, young bulls and young pigs which have already been culled out. It is obviously true that the individual tending of each cow benefits even culled out animals and yet a portion of them perishes and their productivity is not very high. Thus the owners of the plots become disillusioned.

The time has come for our animal husbandry farms to follow the example of our poultry factories: they are making high quality and regionalized strains of chicks available to all those desiring them.

For carrying out work on a private plot, it is considered highly desirable to have a miniature tractor with towing implements. But as yet such machines are rare. An intelligent solution was found at the Vishnyunay Kolkhoz in Prenayskiy Rayon: they are maintaining horses. Here the problem of tractive power for the LPKh's has been solved. It is obviously easier to organize the production of horse equipment than miniature tractors. Yes and there are no requirements for fuel and lubricating materials. However, many farms do not think too highly of horses.

Private plot vegetable growing, similar to public vegetable growing, "thrives" persistently under polyethylene film. One sees many temporary hothouses on the plots of rural and municipal residents in Kedaynskiy, Kaunasskiy and other rayons. And this is good. There are never too many early winter vegetables just as there are never too many flowers.

Owing to the fact that many residents of Kedaynskiy Rayon raise cucumbers in their hothouses, they are usually cheaper on the local kolkhoz market than in the vegetable stores. They are also shipped to neighboring oblasts and rayons.

But who can furnish advice as to where the owner of a heated or unheated hothouse can purchase the polyethylene film required for all vegetable growers? Or transparent paper for wrapping up winter and autumn flowers? They are not available in stores and thus the "black" market flourishes. The film is acquired through friends -- from funds assigned for construction, for the preservation of succulent feeds and for public vegetable production. It is difficult to understand why these materials cannot be procured at an acceptable price in farm or other stores.

There is still another question: why is it that early cucumbers, tomatoes and flowers cannot be purchased in large volumes at commission prices from the rural and municipal populations? The purchasing of surplus products is usually well organized during those years when the vegetables, potatoes, fruit, milk and meat are in short supply. But there are also years when the owner of a private plot must sell his surplus products himself at bazaars and at a cheaper price, despite the fact that in other regions these products are in short supply both in stores and in the kolkhoz markets. However, since the procurement specialists are able to fulfill their plans easily and even over-fulfill them somewhat, they are not interested in searching for markets beyond the limits of the republic. And such interest should be present: it is not profitable to feed cabbage and apples to the cows and hogs.

Certainly, the surplus products could be shipped to the local kolkhoz markets, but this work is not appealing to all persons. In many cities the bazaars differ from those which were held during the last century by a metal chain link fence. Rain or snow, hot or cold -- the traders and their goods remained outdoors. In the autumn an individual would bring his apples and potatoes to the bazaar. A cold snap would set in -- the products would freez and lose their food value.

The commission stores, which must procure and sell surplus agricultural products, are also the last to be allocated facilities and quite often these facilities have weak refrigeration.

With regard to private plot animal husbandry operations, one fact must regrettably be noted: in the rural areas of Lithuania, with an acceleration taking place in the resettlement of rural residents from small farmsteads, a decrease is being noted in the number of livestock and poultry on the LPKh's /private plots/. The state is stimulating the resettlement from small farmsteads. However, after receiving a subsidy for resettlement, a kolkhoz member or pensioner does not always remain in the rural area. A considerable portion of them do not move to the central farmsteads of farms or to other large settlements, but instead they move to cities. Should such a process be paid for out of the state's pocket? Indeed, here is what happens: a former rural individual quite often helps a son or daughter living in the city to acquire a small machine and himself, instead of providing them with assistance in the form of products, stands in line at a delicatessen of vegetable store. The small farmsteads are disappearing with the passage of time and state assistance should be furnished only to those who move to rural settlements.

We cannot afford to tolerate the waste that is taking place in connection with our old housing fund. At two kolkhozes, I happened to witness the setting afire of two small farmstead structures and the area being leveled by a bulldozer. At the same time, in the collective gardens of cities, for example Kaunas and Vilnyus, "villas" are being built using modern construction materials. And why not purchase a home with a straw roof from an individual who is resettling and set it up in a collective garden? This is simply not the fashion at the moment and this is unfortunate.

Response of Republic Official

Moscow SEL'SKAYA NOV' in Russian No 10, Oct 83 p 19

/Article: "Not a Private Concern"/

/Text/ In an article published in Issue No. 5 of SEL'SKAYA NOV' for 1983 under the title "Not a Private Concern," the experience accumulated in developing the private economy in Lithuania was discussed.

The deputy minister of agriculture for the Lithuanian SSR V. Sankauskas replies to the Editorial Board.

The ministry has thoroughly examined the article by B. Karalyus entitled "Not a Private Concern" and considers the problems which he raised concerning development of the LPKh's /private plots/ to be quite urgent.

The author's critical comments regarding logistical supply, agrochemical services for the private plots and the organization of procurements of agricultural products among the population are correct and completely valid.

The ministry and rayon agroindustrial associations are undertaking additional measures aimed at eliminating these shortcomings and strengthening the interrelationships of public production with the private plots of citizens on a contractual basis.

At the same time, we are able to report that the private plots in the Lithuanian SSR are producing 4.2 times more gross output per rural resident

than the average for the country. Based upon the 1982 results and compared to the overall volume of state procurements, the proportions contributed by the private plots were as follows: milk -- 31 percent, meat -- 16.8, potatoes -- 38, fruit -- 72 percent. In a calculation per cow, 1,974 kilograms of milk were purchased.

The LPKh's are promoting work in the sphere of material production by housewives, pensioners, juveniles, more efficient use of production facilities, especially those located at small farmsteads, and also the additional feed resources offered by forest lands, roadside strips, unsuitable lands and the food scraps of rural farmyards.

The LPKh's are receiving constant assistance from public production. Approximately 60 percent of the grain crops of private plots is being grown on the crop rotation plan fields of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises. The population is being provided with assistance in tilling the private plots, procuring feed and in obtaining pedigree livestock, young hogs and poultry and high quality seed.

A system has been created in the republic for organizing procurements among the population and the centralized shipping of livestock, milk and certain other products.

The author of the article has revealed in an objective manner the experience accumulated in the management of LPKh's on farms throughout the republic. However, not all of the problems raised in the article are within the competence of the republic organs; some of them must be resolved by the appropriate union departments.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Lithuanian SSR considers it advisable to create special subunits at the scientific research institutes for the purpose of carrying out a comprehensive study of the socio-economic aspects of LPKh's.

7026
CSO: 1824/69

AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSIDIARY FARMS IN DONETSK OBLAST

Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Jun 83 p 2

[Article, under the rubric "Development of Subsidiary Farms", written by S. Mokrishchev, TRUD correspondent: Evaluating Our Enthusiasm"]

[Text] Some ten years ago the number of subsidiary farms in Donetsk Oblast that were run by enterprises could have been counted on the fingers of one's hands. Now there are 155 of them. Not every rural rayon produces as much meat and early vegetables as these agricultural sections of plants, factories and oblast organizations. And many of the sections have passed through initial development stages. The time has come to sum up the figures, to talk about the cost to these agricultural sections for a quintal weight gain per pig or to raise a rooster or rabbit.

The overall picture is quite varied. The subsidiary farm of the Kramatorskiy trust of cafeterias and restaurants spends R135 per quintal weight gain of pigs. Subsidiary farms in the cities of Torez, Snezhnoye and Shakhtersk spend at least R300, and in places the cost is more than R1,000. A rabbit on the farm belonging to the department of workers' supply [ORS] at the Makeyevskiy Metal Works costs about R69 to raise. Unit cost per pig on farms in Selidovo are one-half of the average cost on farms of the administration of workers' supply [URS] of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry [Minugleprom].

Why are these figures so different? To answer that question I first travelled to Kramatorsk, to those who are enjoying success. V. Bul'benko, director of subsidiary agriculture, took me through the well-built and highly mechanized sheds for pigs and poultry, through the feed processing assembly, past the garage where combines, tractors and trucks stood ready to roll, then talked about weight gains, interspersed the conversation with profit rates, figures and periods necessary to cover expenses. And through all of this it was apparent that he was proud of his farm.

There is one farm for almost the entire 250,000 people in Kramatorsk and it really is a model farm. Not all farms in the neighboring villages can match such daily weight gains--400 grams per day. And half of the feed does not consist of high-calorie food wastes. High figures are just fine, but what does it cost? Even in 1979 the trust's farm showed a loss of R150,000. Then it became profitable; last year there was a R51,000 profit. And again, what was the price?

Not too long ago the trust of cafeterias and restaurants began raising pigs--bought on the side--on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, almost 12,000 animals a year. The pigs were shipped in even from Poltava and Zhitomir oblasts. Shipping costs alone amounted to R50-60,000.

"And that's not the most important thing", explained the farm's senior livestock specialist, M. Balaban. "The pigs lose 4-5 kg in shipping, then it takes them more than a month to start gaining weight, this because they must adjust to different feeds, water, the facilities. And that's not all. Pigs weighing 50-100 kg show the greatest weight gains. Kolkhozes give us hogs weighing more than one quintal, and we have these animals put on an additional 30-40 kg, mostly fat. It's useless and uneconomic work."

Those on the Kramatorsk farm have established a good-sized herd of sows. Each year up to 5,000 piglets are born and raised.

"And here are the figures", as was explained to me at the cafeteria trust. "We used to ship in and then feed 12,000 pigs a year, a total weight gain of 370-380 tons. Now we start with our own piglets, some 5,000 or so, and obtain more than 450 tons of meat. And the quality of the meat is much better."

We must point out that there isn't much agricultural land in Donetsk Oblast. The farm in Kramatorsk alone has 1,024 hectares, while the remaining 154 secondary farms in the oblast have but 3,000 hectares. This is one hundred times less than the land available in neighboring Rostov Oblast. Those in Donetsk must then rely on other sources for supplies of feed and on food wastes.

Noteworthy in this regard is the subsidiary farm of the Selidovskiy ORS in the UkSSR Minugleprom; food wastes supply 75-78 percent of their feed needs. And most of the wastes are from domestic use. Housing offices and administrations in the city of Selidovo provide a thousand tons more of food wastes than in the city of Torez which has 20,000 more residents. And those in Selidovo have managed to attain daily weight gains for their animals of up to 450 grams. They have also begun to breed pigs.

It is important to point out that pig handlers here have the highest salary of any subsidiary farm of the UkSSR Minugleprom; per unit costs for a quintal of meat are the lowest here.

There are other examples in the oblast of a careful, business-like approach to setting up agricultural sections. The huge livestock facility located right on the grounds of Azovstal' also supplies most of its own animal feed; daily weight gains here are more than one-half kg. This means the successful resolution of the vital and concrete task--to improve the diet of metal workers in the plant's cafeterias.

I happened to arrive at the agricultural section of the Torezantratsit industrial association at that very moment when they were totalling up last year's losses and computing those for the current year. And I have yet to see such a farm. It is scattered about in small parts. The mine enterprise

feeds 15-20 sheep in an unused kolkhoz shed that is leased, while hogs are kept in a primitive, makeshift structure right in a courtyard together with household articles. Here are 30 pigs, there 10 and somewhere else 7. The 28 mines and other subdivisions of the association keep 648 pigs and 350 head of cattle, an average of 35 animals. Outlays on labor, inputs, feed and materials are startling. If the pigs were fed in one place and if there was even the most basic machinery, then four pig handlers and three for sheep could do the work. Well, let's even throw in a couple of watchmen and three-four herdsmen. At present there are more than 100 workers, and that's not counting those working two jobs. This is the first problem. Secondly, it is difficult under such conditions to maintain sanitation and to provide basic veterinary care. It is not by chance that the farm of the association's administration of material and technical supply, where 54 pigs are kept, saw the death of 25 animals by Summirovav murrain; payments for the following have decreased: amortization of debt or rent of facilities, wages for pig and sheep handlers and watchmen, inputs of feed, electricity, water, etc. It turns out that one kg of meat has a production cost of R10. And such conditions raise much doubt about state standards for the "golden" fattening process. Just take a look and see what a tightrope-walking act is performed here. The mines purchase pigs from sponsoring kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The animals are taken from favorable conditions to which they are accustomed to those that are unfamiliar. Feed grains are also obtained from these farms, hundreds of tons. Food wastes make up 15 percent of the nutritional value in feed mixes, and even that is not everywhere.

For many enterprises the experience of having its own farm is a new one, and there are many different types of problems. But the means to solving a difficult problem are well known. Directors of enterprises in the cities of Torez, Snezhnoye and Shakhtersk were brought to Donetsk for a seminar at the Zasyad'ko mine. They weren't even prepared to copy their colleagues' methods for setting up an agricultural section. But the Zasyad'ko mine, which up until then had not been engaged in vegetable production or in livestock, took up the new undertaking in a very dedicated manner, not an impulse and not by tossing money to the wind. Mostly the mine used those strengths that a large industrial enterprise has: a high degree of organization of modern production and production-line labor techniques. First they built greenhouses with enough space that, all through the winter and spring, there were fresh vegetables in the mine's cafeterias. Now, not too far from its rest home at the Slavyanogorskiy resort, the mine is building a large livestock facility, one building for 500 sheep and a pigsty for 1,000 hogs.

For sure not every enterprise can undertake large construction projects on its own. But each one can have a greenhouse or even an apiary, even a fish hatchery if there is a reservoir on its own or on neighboring land. Yes, that's also a subsidiary farm. And whoever wants to set up poultry or pig production must have, according to specialists, large mechanized farms, preferably of their own construction. But the path of cooperation allows one to proceed more directly. Smaller enterprises can combine their forces and inputs, just as was done in the cities of Konstantinovka, Druzhkovka and Artemovsk, or in the Kirovskiy rayon of Donetsk where the coke plant, toy factory and the worsted spinning mill are jointly building a large facility for sheep.

There are many such instructive examples. Why don't all enterprises use this valuable experience in their decisions? In oblispolkoms one hears that enterprises are given recommendations and normative documents by sector. But should these orient the enterprises? In addition it is apparent that from the ministerial level it is difficult to foresee locally developing circumstances. Local organs have a much better view of the problems and difficulties of subsidiary farms, the net results. Who then can caution against mistakes? Who then, if not these local organs together with labor unions, can expand the field of experience?

Setting up agricultural sections and, in so doing, fulfilling the Food Program, it is important to avoid superficial solutions. Each step here must be considered, calculated from the point of view of efficiency. Only in this way will success be attained.

9964
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PRODUCTION OF SMALL TRACTORS FOR PRIVATE PLOTS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 19 Oct 83 p 2

/Article: "A Small Tractor"/

/Text/ Many readers of SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' are asking when the production of orchard and garden tractors, for use on private plots, will be organized. We asked the general director of the Gruzsel'khozmash Scientific Production Association B. Choniyu to answer this question.

In order to cultivate their private plots in a normal manner, procure sufficient feed for their livestock and tend their plots in the proper manner, the rural residents must expend a great amount of time and effort. Meanwhile, agricultural production is becoming more intensive and the work being carried out on the public fields and farms consumes an entire working day. On busy days during the sowing and harvesting campaigns, the kolknoz members and sovknoz workers often lose track of the time. Very little time remains for conscientious workers to work on their private plots. Moreover, a worker needs time for reading a book, watching television, engaging in sports or spending time with his family. Light mechanization can be of assistance in solving this serious social problem.

According to data supplied by Tsentrosoyuz /Central Union of Consumers' Societies/, the minimal requirement for obtaining such mechanization is approximately 2 billion rubles. The equipment being produced today is not satisfying the consumers. Moreover, the assortment of such equipment is extremely limited. We still lack the experience required for producing modern motorized units and small tractors with accompanying sets of implements. Such experience has been accumulated in a number of foreign countries. However, it is accumulating all too slowly in domestic machine building.

The system of machines for the all-round mechanization of agricultural production for the 1981-1990 period includes a special motorized unit with a rating of 5-7 horsepower and a set of 13 types of agricultural implements for use with it on small tracts and a small wheeled tractor with a rating of 10-12 horsepower and a set of nine types of implements. The Kutaisi Small Tractor Plant has been tasked with developing these small items of mechanized equipment and mastering their production. In addition, licenses have been

purchased from the Italian Gol'doni and Acme Firms for producing the motorized units, engines and implements used with these tractors.

A number of leading institutes and design bureaus of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building have been licensed for producing the machines. They have already prepared the appropriate technical documentation and they have selected and coordinated with the foreign firms the domestic materials which will be used for creating these basically new items of equipment.

Owing to the vast nature of this program and the limited amount of time available for carrying it out, several of the branch's industrial enterprises have been enjoined to participate in the work. This includes the Kutaisi Plant for Motorized Units, the Tbilissi Gruzsel'mash Plant, the Rostov Krasnyy Aksay Production Association, the Lidsel'mash Plant, the Kursk Plant for Tractor Small Parts and the Odessapochvomash Production Association. Certain other enterprises of the branch have been tasked with producing individual component units and parts.

Our association must carry out work on such problems as the use of light mechanization equipment and their technical servicing. We must furnish recommendations on the use of motorized units and small tractors in other branches of the national economy, such as the municipal economy and highway construction. Finally, we must participate actively, together with the enterprises and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, in ensuring the production of the first experimental-industrial batch of small-scale equipment.

7026
CSO: 1824/65

TIMBER UTILIZATION MISMANAGEMENT IN RSFSR AREAS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Oct 83 p 3

/Article by O. Andreyeva: "At a Departmental Crossroad"/

/Text/ Much has been written about cedar. Our newspaper has dedicated more than one article to this subject. At the beginning of this past summer, in response to a request by readers, an inspection brigade of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carried out a check on the manner in which a special decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on improvements in the all-round utilization and protection of cedar forests, adopted 5 years ago, was being carried out. The reports received concerning this operation provided information on the management of valuable forests in the Altay, Krasnoyarsk, Maritime and Khabarovsk Krays and in Tomsk and Novosibirsk Oblasts. Today we are publishing a review of the responses to the action taken by the newspaper.

The RSFSR Minister of Forestry A.I. Zverev reported that the material "was examined during a meeting of the ministry's board. The chief forester of the Khabarovsk Forestry Administration G.M. Katashonov was reprimanded for failure to undertake the measures required for preventing violations of forestry legislation and also for the absence of strict control over the work of the timber procurement specialists. Deputy Minister R.V. Bobrov went to the Khabarovsk and Maritime Forestry Administrations for the purpose of examining those questions associated with the cedar problem."

Was this a business-like reaction to the criticism? Beyond any doubt. But this impression is overshadowed by one circumstance. Almost 4 months have passed since the publication date. The deputy minister obviously returned from his temporary duty trip some time ago. What were the results of this trip? Unfortunately, we have not been informed.

The editorial board received a reply signed by the procurator for the Khakass Autonomous Oblast V.K. Gavrilenko. He reported as follows: seven leaders of enterprises were issued warnings for having violated the rules for forest utilization. Criminal proceedings were instituted against five foremen at the Abaza Forestry Farm. The procurators in those regions in which enterprises which tolerated violations were located were asked to intensify their vigilance in the interest of ensuring the carrying out of those laws aimed at protecting the forest reserves.

This measure is truly necessary. There are still too many economic executives who strive mainly to carry out the plan in terms of "cubic meters" and at any cost, thus displaying a consumer's attitude towards the natural resources. In particular, the material revealed one fact: notwithstanding the strict limitations that are presently being placed upon the felling of cedar trees, more than 2 million cubic meters of this wood are being procured annually in the Maritime Kray. The last 33,000 hectares of pure far eastern cedar tracts along the upper reaches of the Bol'shaya Ussurka River can still be saved by the statute concerning the nut-producing zone. But while the departmental arguments continue, the timber procurement specialists are already laying down a road here. Those who participated in the inspection stated that the lumberjacks in Khabarovsk Kray are carrying out their work with no regard for nature.

It would seem that their actions should be scrutinized very closely by Minlesbumprom /Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Wood Processing Industry/. However, Deputy Minister Yu.A. Yagofnikov, in his reply to the publication, not only passed over these facts in silence but, judging from the tone of the letter, he did not view them as providing even the slightest cause for concern. "For the country as a whole, the calculated felling areas in cedar forests are being utilized 25.5 percent, with the fluctuations in some regions ranging from 4 to 74 percent," he reported.

According to branch statistical data, this is truly so. The main trump card being used by the timber procurement specialists for fending off all counter-arguments -- the calculated felling areas. This concept implies the following: during a definite period of time the amount of timber being felled must equal the amount being grown. Formally, the fellings are almost always carried out on this basis. But actually?

"Instead of the most valuable tracts being cut down" commented the authors of the inspection team, "quite often the cedar tracts include lands on which cedar trees constitute less than one fifth of the plantings. If such timber was truly cut down, there would hardly be any alarming voices raised in its defense. But the fact of the matter is that every attempt is made to obtain the very best, to skim the cream off the top."

Here a digression is necessary. A calculated felling area was established when the timber industry took its first steps in the regions of Siberia and the Far East. The forest organizers, crudely speaking, cheated the cedar tracts, such that for every three cedar trees on them there were seven trees of different strains. And the fact that more often than not the cedar tracts are inaccessible reserve forests is not taken into account. The taiga is considered to be both boundless and oppressive. And a truly astronomical figure appeared. If it is corrected by raising the growth rate in cedar fellings and converting its tracts into nut production zones, then the effect against the overall background of "reserves" would be extremely negligible. Under the cover of "averaged-out" figures, the procurement specialists cut down easily accessible pure tracts and on mixed tracts they took a vllume of cedar, leaving the low-value deciduous strains behind.

In the opinion of a number of specialists, the time has come for considering cedar growth only in a zone of industrial procurements. At first glance, this proposal is not indisputable. Nevertheless, it warrants fixed attention. It

is believed that it makes considerable sense from an economic standpoint. Although they are not felling many trees at the present time generally speaking, nevertheless the work is being carried out in the most easily accessible areas. Understandably the procurement specialists are under an obligation to devote thought to procuring more wood with less expenditures. But should we be guided only by today's interests? And what will be done here tomorrow? Indeed, one cannot return here for another wood crop for another 150-200 years! Nor can we overlook the fact that the tracts available today are required for protecting the soil and the purity of the air, for harvesting nuts and obtaining valuable fur-bearing animals and unique medicinal plants.

In short, life itself is convincing: a more sound scientific approach is required in each specific instance. But, strange as it seems, USSR Gosleskhoz /State Committee for Forestry of the USSR Council of Ministers/ and the research and forestry planning institutes have not devoted any attention to the newspaper action and have not even attempted to clarify the essence of the problem or the argument centering around cedar. It is as though the problem of protecting this valuable wood is beyond the range of its concerns.

To some it may seem that we are delving too deeply into private branch problems. By no means. Indeed this is the chief misfortune of cedar today -- various departments wish to make use of it, thinking mainly of their own interests. Meanwhile the time is finally at hand for joining efforts. "The time has come" wrote the authors of the material, "to convert over to creating multiple-branch farms in a persistent manner and on an extensive basis, farms which provide for utilization of the gifts of the cedar taiga and tending it and also the necessary tree fellings."

Let us return to the reply by Yu.A. Yagodnikov. He reports that "the ministry is prepared to examine appropriate recommendations for the creation of such farms within the USSR Minlesbumprom system. And we ask what is preventing this from being done? Moreover, what has prevented it from being done in the past? We repeat that 5 years have passed since the publication of the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers that called precisely for the development of all-round farms. And only recently has Minlesbumprom created within the structure of the Tomlesprom Association, and here we should note in brackets that is was accomplished under pressure by the local party and soviet organs, the Suyginskiy Experimental Timber Combine. "This enterprise" writes the deputy minister to the editorial board, "in addition to its industrial activities, will in 1983 commence carrying out forestry measures and other experimental-production operations concerned with the all-round management of a farm." Thus it is truly better late than never!

There remains only very little more to be said. It was only logical to assume that the first to respond to the newspaper's action would be those who were the direct recipients of the criticism. In particular, the leaders of the timber procurement associations in the Maritime Kray, Khabarovsk Kray, Khakass Autonomous Oblast and the Altay Forestry Administration. But although 4 months have elapsed since the publication date, not one of the above has replied to the editorial board. It has been said that silence is a sign of agreement. But even if they recognize their own operational shortcomings, such a position of passive agreement to criticism will in no way placate either the readers or the newspaper.

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5 December 1983

USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

No. 1411

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5 December 1983

USSR REPORT

AGRICULTURE

No. 1411

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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

MOSCOW RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 20-26 OCTOBER

20-22 October

LD222321 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 20-22 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at end of each item.

20 October

After completion of grain threshing the harvest is over in Altay. The harvest was difficult, a severe summer drought was followed by 2 weeks of continuous autumn rains. In the west of the kray crops were stunted and damaged, in eastern and hilly areas they were flattened by wind and rain. Despite this the harvest was above last year's over the whole kray. Sale of grain to the state is continuing. (1100 GMT)

21 October

Uzbek farmers have fulfilled the plan for the sale to the state of vegetables, fruit and cucurbits, reports the USSR CSD. Farms of Tajikistan and Moldavia are close to finishing plan targets. In all, almost 16 million tons of produce from industrial gardens and orchards has been sold; that is more than for the same period last year. The center of vegetable harvesting now is the oblasts of the Russian Federation: Vologda, Gorkiy, Saratov, Moscow and Leningrad. Cabbage, carrots, turnips, beets and radishes are being dispatched from here to the country's towns and workers' settlements. Our correspondent notes that this year a plentiful yield of green crops has been obtained: parsley, dill, celery and lettuce. This produce is perishable and therefore it is particularly important to store it as quickly as possible. Incidentally, as the Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Economy reports, this work is being done now generally quite well around the country. (0200 GMT)

Collective and state farms of Kazakhstan today completed stocking-in of seeds. Winter crops in the republic cover an area of 2,200,000 hectares. Winter fallows have been ploughed on an area of 15 million hectares, which is almost 80 percent of the plan. (1400 GMT)

The agricultural workers of three more oblasts in Kazakhstan have completed their socialist pledges for the sale of grain to the state: from the collective and state farms of Dzhezkazgan Oblast 99,000 tons of grain has been received; from those of the Kzyl-Orda Oblast--386,000 tons, including 366,000 tons of rice; and from those of Chimkent Oblast--563,000 tons of grain, which is 187,000 tons more than the plan. The farms of these oblasts have ensured their own supplies of seed for the grain crops of next year's harvest. (1630 GMT)

22 October

The agricultural workers of Astrakhan Oblast have won a major victory: 918,000 tons of vegetables and cucurbits have arrived at the procurement centers and processing enterprises from collective and state farms, or 58,000 tons above the plan. The oblast's farms have fulfilled the plan for the deliveries of vegetables to the country's towns and industrial centers. The sale of vegetables to the state is continuing. (0800 GMT)

The plan for the sale of sugar beets to the state has been fulfilled by the agricultural workers of Belgorod Oblast: 2,353,000 tons of sugar beets have arrived at procurement centers and processing enterprises. (0800 GMT)

Dnepropetrovsk Oblast has completed the harvesting of grain corn. Despite some drought, the harvest is good--more than 30 quintals per hectare. During the first year of the current 5-year plan period, the harvest was 13 quintals less per hectare. The improvement is due to the introduction of industrial methods and the use of large quantities of fertilizer and herbicides. The area under corn is to be increased further, to achieve a harvest of 1 million tons per annum. (1630 GMT)

Belorussian farms have completed the autumn ploughing, 10 days earlier than last year. About 2.5 million hectares have been ploughed, including newly reclaimed marshland. (1630 GMT)

23-24 October

LD260322 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 23-24 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

23 October

Nine hundred thousand tons of cotton have been delivered to procurement points in Turkmenistan to date. (0430 GMT)

Sugar-beet lifting has been completed in Kirovabad Oblast. An area of 130,000 hectares of the crop has been harvested. Each hectare has produced a yield of 40-50 quintals. (1400 GMT)

Ukrainian farms completing sugar beet harvest. Local agriculture official praises their efforts. To date, over 40 million tons of beets have been delivered in the republic. (1600 GMT)

Omsk Oblast autumn plowing is coming to an end. More than 1.5 million hectares have already been plowed. (2300 GMT)

24 October

Moscow Oblast farmers fulfilled their socialist pledges on sale of potatoes to the state. They delivered to procurement points a total of 775,000 tons, which is more than planned by 48,000 tons. (0304 GMT)

Fallows plowing is being completed in Omsk Oblast, for the early crop sowing next year. More than 1.5 million hectares have been prepared. (1000 GMT)

In Mordovia the Yelenkovskiy Rayon has met its annual plan for all forms of agricultural production. The autonomous republic as a whole has produced over 50,000 tons of above-plan grain, 34,000 tons of sugar beets and large amounts of potatoes and milk. Thanks to raised quality, Mordovian farms will receive about 15 million rubles extra. (1200 GMT)

The last combines today left the beet and potato fields of Altay. The kray has now completely finished harvesting these crops. Over 400,000 quintals of root crops have been sent to the reception points and the first 13,000 tons of sugar has been made from the beets harvested. The potato harvest is not bad. All towns and working settlements in the kray have been fully supplied with potatoes for the winter period while farms have laid in the necessary quantity of seed potatoes. (1630 GMT)

25-26 October

LD270717 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 25-26 October. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at end of each item.

25 October

Altay: Harvesting of beets and potatoes has been completed. More than 400,000 quintals of beets have been delivered to reception points. (0100 GMT)

Cotton-growers of Uzbekistan have gathered in 4 million tons of raw cotton. The target is 6 million tons. (0530 GMT)

26 October

Bryansk Oblast farmers have fulfilled their potato sales pledges, delivering 749,000 tons. (1100 GMT)

Kazakh farmers have completed mass sowing of winter crops in optimum time. They occupy about 2.3 million hectares, almost 250,000 hectares over the plan. (1300 GMT)

The country has taken in 6.8 million tons of cotton. The figure was reported to a Radio Moscow correspondent at the Central Board of Statistics. The entire cotton crop is estimated at 9.4 million tons. This is quite a large figure. This year the cotton ripened somewhat later than usual because of unfavorable weather. Harvesting in general is nearing completion in the country. The Soviet Union has grown a fairly good harvest of grain, sugar beets, flax, potatoes and vegetables. (1400 GMT)

Good cotton harvests have been obtained in southeast Turkmenia. Azerbaijani farmers have already procured 800,000 metric tons of the 820,000 metric tons of cotton pledged. Winter crops have been sown on 38.4 million hectares in east Siberia. (1800 GMT)

CSO: 1824/80

UZBEK SSR 1983 COTTON PRODUCTION OPERATIONS DESCRIBED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 13 Sep 83 p 1

/Article by A. Uzilevskiy, Uzbek SSR: "The Cotton Growers Undergo An Examination"/

/Excerpts/ The busy harvest campaign on the cotton fields of Uzbekistan is commencing with hand-picking of the crop on turn-around strips, on small checkplots and those unsuited for machine operations and on seed sowings. At the same time, defoliation of the plants is being carried out on tracts designated for mechanized harvesting.

The mass mechanized harvesting of cotton will commence during the second half of September. Meanwhile the tempo of the hand-picking work is intensifying with each passing day. The first 190,000 tons of raw cotton have been delivered to the scales. All of it was accepted as being of 1st class quality.

All of the rayons in Surkhan-Darya Oblast are participating in the harvesting and delivery to the state of fine-fibred varieties of raw cotton. At the present time, during the final stage of the harvest campaign, the results from having introduced the group contract method are readily apparent. Approximately 1,000 individuals are today working on seed checkplots at the 40 Let Oktyabrya Kolkhoz in Termezskiy Rayon.

The present harvest campaign differs noticeably from previous ones. The raised temperatures during the second half of the summer exerted an adverse effect in a number of oblasts with regard to the formation of the crop on the middle layer and the farms are striving to compensate for the shortfall in yield by obtaining full-value bolls from the upper layer of the bushes. But late cotton as a rule must be harvested during the season of rainfall and cold snaps and this can cause harm to the quality of the raw cotton.

Another feature of this season -- the conversion of the entire republic over to the new state standard for evaluating quality and for paying for the cotton accepted. Last year, procurements of the crop were carried out in accordance with the new GOST /state standard/ in three oblasts -- Bukhara, Namangan and Surkhan-Darya. The additional profit earned by farms in these oblasts for products sold amounted respectively to 60, 26 and 106 million rubles. The new

standard does not provide for those benefits which existed for many years for hopper raw cotton. Henceforth the payment for it will be carried out on the basis of uniform indicators for the quality of the fibre, ripeness and external appearance. The raised payments for 1st, 2d and 3d industrial grades are stimulating the farms into supplying better quality products. And cotton harvested prior to the onset of inclement weather is just this type of cotton.

The brigade harvest method -- experience tested over the past several years -- is an important factor for solving the problem. Unfortunately, not all of the republic's procurement points are prepared for a brigade determination of the quality of the raw cotton. On the whole, improvements have taken place in the work being performed by enterprises of the republic's Ministry of the Cotton Cleaning Industry, but as yet 223 procurement points have still not been equipped with cleaning units.

The present season is distinguished by recurrent cotton strain changing work. Compared to 1980, the sowings of the principal medium-fibre variety have been reduced by 50 percent and the areas used for new and more wilt-resistant varieties expanded. Four new cotton varieties have been regionalized in 1983. Promising varieties characterized by fibre of a raised quality have been tested on an area in excess of 200,000 hectares. The hand-picking work is being carried out mainly on fields which are not subject to defoliation.

Roughly 3,300 mechanized detachments have been formed in the republic for carrying out mechanized harvesting work. These detachments have at their disposal 35,000 cotton harvesting units, mechanical loaders, pick-up attachments, thrashed heap cleaners, more than 100,000 wagons for the bulk transporting of the crop and tens of thousands of tractors. New equipment will be used for the harvest -- a large batch of cotton harvesting machines having pneumatic pick-up attachments and additional cleaners and machines for harvesting the seed raw cotton by layers and for harvesting fine-fibred varieties.

This year's crop involves difficult labor. And the most important task of the day is that of harvesting it in a timely manner. An adequate number of aircraft of agricultural aviation and ground operated dusters and sprayers are available for carrying out the artificial defoliation of the cotton plants on farms throughout the republic. However, according to the data for 12 September, less than 500,000 hectares have been treated with defoliants although the plan called for 1.6 million. One half of the areas treated are located in Tashkent Oblast. Here use was made of all 60 of the aircraft made available and also of approximately 700 ground treatment units. During a day's time, approximately 20,000 hectares of sowings were defoliated on the farms and by the end of the first 10 days in September the defoliation process had been completed on all of the cotton fields in the oblast. Thus it will be possible during the middle of the month to open up the front for work by the entire cotton harvesting pool. The Tashkent farmers plan to harvest 80 percent of their crop using machines.

Yet the defoliation work has only just commenced in Andizhan, Namangan, Fergana and Khorezm Oblasts. Here this operation, which ensures a front of work for machine harvesting, has been carried out on only 2-5 percent of the

areas. Those leaders and specialists are to be reproached who, despite advice and the great amount of experience accumulated in Uzbekistan, are very slow in carrying out the mass deployment of the harvesting operations.

The republic is successfully coping with the state plan for the production and procurements of grain, vegetable and fruit crops, potatoes, silk cocoons, animal husbandry products and feed. But the chief examination for the year -- the harvesting of the cotton. A great amount of work has been carried out in Uzbekistan this year aimed at ensuring that a good harvest of fine quality "white gold" is obtained.

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CSO: 1824/071

UZBEK SSR COTTON HARVEST PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 12 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by A. Uzilevskiy, Uzbek SSR: "Autumn and Cotton"]

[Excerpts] The leading farms and hundreds of brigades are already shipping cotton in behalf of their obligations. The leaders among the oblasts are Tashkent, Khorezm and Bukhara. Here the cotton procurement plans have been fulfilled by two thirds. Emphasis is placed upon the fact that the Tashkent machine operators are unloading up to 70 percent of the crop from the hoppers of their machines. The highest daily increases are being produced by farms in the Karakalpak ASSR and in Khorezm, Dzhizak and Syr-Darya Oblasts. The machine harvesting of cotton in each of the above areas amounts to 9,000-10,000 tons daily.

I visited the fields in the Dzhizak Steppe region. This region is included in the republic's summary and, according to the data for 10 October, it has supplied the state with only 40 percent of the amount of cotton planned for sale. Nine tenths of the oblast's farms are virgin land farms and do not have an adequate labor reserve for organizing the manual harvesting of the crop. Everything here is dependent upon the use of machines. Yet the work is being adversely affected by deviations from the accepted agricultural practices, disruptions in the schedules and by poor quality chopping and defoliation of the plants.

On the whole, the oblast has favorable conditions at its disposal for intensifying the tempo of the harvest process. The plenum of the oblast's party committee, during which a speech was delivered by Candidate Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and 1st Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan Sh.R. Rashidov, viewed this factor as being an urgent task of the day. Having taken note of the successes achieved by the oblast's workers in developing their productive forces, Comrade Rashidov at the same time emphasized the special responsibility of the communists and all labor collectives for the final results of this current year, a decisive year as is well known insofar as the successes of the five-year plan on the whole are concerned.

Certainly, irrigated virgin land provides a generous return. Over the past 3 years, more than 1 million tons of Dzhizak cotton and in excess of 700,000 tons

of food products have been produced. The state capital investments were repaid with interest. But the return being realized from a hectare of irrigated land must constantly increase. All of the conditions required for this are available. In Dzhizak Oblast, for example, every 1,000 hectares are "armed" so to speak with 24 cotton harvesting machines, compared to an average figure of only 18 for the republic. It also has greater amounts of other types of harvesting equipment, tractors and transport vehicles. The procurement and cotton ginning network has been expanded. The summary for 10 October reveals that every 8 out of 10 tons delivered to the procurement points by farms in Dzhizak Oblast were harvested with the aid of machines.

This level should never be considered as adequate for virgin land farms. There are still hundreds of harvesting units that have not been moved out onto the fields and each operating unit harvests only 3 tons of raw cotton daily. In short, nothing is preventing the kolkhozes and sovkhozes from increasing their daily harvest by 3,000-3,500 tons. Recently the virgin land workers have received assistance from detachments of students from Tashkent. They have been delivering 1,500 tons of select cotton to the scales on a daily basis. This will make it possible to raise the daily yield to 15,000-16,000 tons next week.

Such a rate is fully within the capability of the Dzhizak Oblast cotton growers. It has been achieved by many harvesting detachments in Oktyabr'skiy, Mirzachulskiy, Dustlikskiy and Arnasayskiy Rayons.

Brigades of veterans, housewives and students have been created in many rayons and they are delivering thousands of quintals of the white resource to the scales on a daily basis.

For a true farmer, cotton becomes more expensive as the hour approaches for shipping it to the receiving points. This is why weediness and a high moisture content cannot be tolerated and why it is important for it to be resorted at each farm and in each brigade. Faulty evaluations of the crop as it is delivered represents still another aspect of the problem. This is the responsibility not only of the farm and rayon leaders but also of the procurement specialists themselves. Unfortunately, the situation is just the opposite in some rayons in Dzhizak Oblast. At the Dustlik Cotton Plant, for example, according to the date for 6 October, not one ton of machine harvested raw cotton was accepted as being of 1st class quality. At the same time, this important indicator covers 45 percent of the cotton for the republic as a whole. Almost one half of the cotton is being accepted as 1st class, again we emphasize, 1st class! Thereafter the hand-picked raw cotton must be sun-dried and the hopper cotton processed in drying-ginning departments prior to being stored in bales.

The state has accepted 3 million tons of cotton from the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Uzbekistan, the same quantity which must be harvested over the next few weeks. The desire to solve this task successfully was confirmed in a very strong manner in a recently published appeal by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR addressed to all of the republic's workers -- to participate actively in the campaign to obtain more cotton during the third

year of the five-year plan and to fully satisfy the country's requirements for this most valuable product from the irrigated fields.

This is not the first year that the Uzbek farmers are encountering and have to overcome difficulties. Again this year: 6 million tons of the "white gold" will be delivered to the scales.

7026
CSO: 1824/071

REQUIREMENTS FOR MACHINE, MANUAL COTTON HARVESTING REVIEWED

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Sep 83 p 1

/Article: "Higher Rates for the Harvest!"/

/Text/ Despite the tradition of many years standing, the first news regarding the commencement of the harvest work came not from the southern part of the republic but rather from Bukhara Oblast. Commencing with the very first days of the harvest campaign, the experts in this oblast seized the leadership in the competition. The high rates achieved by the farms in Bukhara Oblast are the result of the skill displayed by expert hands in carrying out the manual harvesting work and the complete mobilization of the human resources in behalf of the harvest campaign.

The harvest rates are increasing in intensity. On 12 September a report was received from Surkhan-Darya Oblast indicating that the "blue ships" had moved out onto the cotton fields of the Tashkent Sovkhoz in Leninyulskiy Rayon. During the daylight period, mechanic-drivers D. Yuldashev and B. Dustnazarov each harvested 10 tons of raw cotton.

Machine harvesting work is now being carried out on many farms in Kashka-Darya, Khorezm, Tashkent and other oblasts. But the intensity of the harvest work will increase even more when all 36,000 of the harvesting units are operating out on the fields.

The chief concern at the present time -- to complete the defoliation work. All of the conditions required for carrying out this work are present. It is nearing completion on farms in Tashkent, Dzhizak, Syr-Darya and other oblasts and in the Kara-Kalpak ASSR. At the same time, as emphasized in the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, there are still many kolkhozes and sovkhozes which are displaying no haste in carrying out the defoliation work.

Experience testifies to the fact that the Ipatovo method for organizing the harvest work produces the best results. And use should be made of this method at the present time, as pointed out in the decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR entitled "On Preparing the Logistical Base of Enterprises of the Ministry of the Cotton Cleaning Industry and the Republic's Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes for Harvesting and Procuring the 1983 Cotton Crop." By employing this method

in a creative manner for harvesting their cotton, many farms throughout the republic are gathering in their principal crop within a matter of days. Over the past several years, for example, the farms in Galabinskiy Rayon have been completing their planned harvest in just 14-15 days. And this season they plan to complete the work in the same amount of time. For the oblast as a whole, as defined during the Plenum of the Tashkent Oblast Party Committee, the plan for cotton procurements will be fulfilled in just 20 working days.

This season other rayons plan to follow the initiative set by the workers in Galabinskiy, Bukinskiy and Pakhtachiyskiy Rayons and harvest the cotton using their own resources, with no assistance being provided by city-dwellers and students. The obligation of those who initiated this movement and their followers -- to show by personal example the practicality and effectiveness of harvesting the raw cotton using their own resources, such that in the future other farms may follow this same path.

In recent years we have observed a trend towards a reduction in the quality of the fibre. A new system has been introduced this season for accepting and paying for the cotton. Earlier, machine harvested cotton was accepted according to two groups. Cotton harvested by machine and selected following the machines was assigned to the first group and regardless of quality it was paid for according to the zonal procurement price for the first industrial grade. Raw cotton harvested by special machines and selected following cleaning of the fields was assigned to the second group and paid for in accordance with the price for the fourth grade. The new GOST /state standard/ stipulates that machine harvested raw cotton, depending upon its ripeness and external appearance, is subdivided into four industrial grades and paid for according to the price established for each one of them. The prices for the industrial grades are the same for both manual and machine harvested cotton. Hence greater requirements are now being imposed upon the driver-mechanics. The harvesting machines must now be operated by true masters of their work. The working units of a machine must all be properly adjusted and all of the grease boxes and seals in good working order. Each incident of cotton being unloaded onto the ground must be viewed as a ChP /extraordinary event/.

Greater requirements are also being imposed upon those carrying out hand picking work. The majority of them harvest only ripe cotton. But there have been many incidents wherein these individuals have harvested unripe bolls and also cases of the cotton becoming contaminated by leaves. This cannot be tolerated. And here it is important for each participant in the harvest campaign to be imbued with a sense of personal responsibility for the overall task. Negligence, carelessness and an indifferent attitude towards one's harvest responsibilities cannot be tolerated.

The oblast and rayon party committees, the primary party organizations and the RAPO /rayon agroindustrial association/ specialists must create good working and recreation conditions for those participating in the harvest campaign. They must be informed regarding the results of the competition and the incentive measures established for the winners and leading figures in the machine and manual harvest operations.

"The rates for and the quality of the cotton harvesting operations must be raised!" -- the work being performed by the party, soviet, komsomol and

agricultural organs and by the specialists and all agricultural workers must be directed towards achieving this goal. The operation of the field - hopper - wagon - procurement point production line must be accelerated such that the plan and obligation for the third year of the five-year plan will be fulfilled prior to the onset of inclement weather.

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CSO: 1824/071

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

COTTON HARVEST PROGRESS IN TAJIKISTAN

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by N. Ruzanov, Tajik SSR: "The Hoppers Are Being Filled With Cotton"]

[Excerpts] Harvesting operations are in full swing on the cotton fields of Tajikistan. The farmers are striving to carry out this work as rapidly as possible, without losses and to sell 910,000 tons of high quality cotton, including 320,000 tons of fine-fiber cotton.

The leading farms of large cotton growing rayons -- Matchinskiy, Zafarobodskiy, Yavanskiy, Proletarskiy and Il'ichevskiy -- have raised their daily sales of raw cotton to the state to 5-6 percent of the annual plan. Every 4-5 days the man-made mountains of "white gold" at the republic's procurement points increase by 100,000 or more tons.

"The agroindustrial associations are carrying out the harvesting and processing of the cotton as part of a continuous process," stated the head of the Department of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan V. Vakhidov. "This has opened up broad opportunities for employing progressive forms and methods for procuring and evaluating high quality raw cotton and it has promoted the achievement of high final results."

In Gissarskiy, Yavanskiy and Matchinskiy Rayons, the local representatives of plants are accepting a portion of the cotton directly on the farms. Following rapid-analysis, it is shipped off immediately for processing, by-passing the procurement points. Thus the transport expenses decreased by half. A considerable savings was realized from reduced production costs for spinning raw materials delivered to the textile workers. In the Vakhsh River Valley the crop was accepted on a brigade basis. In addition to the credited weight and grade, the computations here also take into account the yield of fiber and its type. And a factor which is of equal importance -- the specimens of the product to be used for laboratory analysis are not selected from a batch on the whole, as was the case earlier, but rather they are selected from each tractor wagon. This makes it possible to determine more accurately the quality of the cotton being received and, when certain deviations from the norm are uncovered, to undertake the necessary measures immediately.

The increasing requirements with regard to maintaining the quality indicators in the work have forced many leaders and specialists to apply themselves in a

more serious manner to the problems concerned with improving the agricultural practices and the varietal structure of the cotton sowings. This has been accomplished for the republic as a whole in favor of fine-fiber varieties. The receiving points are presently receiving especially valuable raw materials from 150 kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The harvest work rates are determined mainly on the basis of skilful use of the equipment. The highest such rates are to be found in Matchinskiy Rayon. Here there are 114 harvest teams working on the cotton plantations and they intend to harvest 70 percent of the cotton with the aid of machines.

"Double-shift operations have been organized for all of the teams," stated the chairman of the RAPO Council S. Akramov. "A 24-hour schedule provides for work by repair workshops of Sel'khoztekhnika, a service for supplying spare parts and a station for furnishing rapid technical assistance. This has been of assistance in raising the productivity of the harvesting-transport detachments and shortening the harvest schedules."

For example, the workers at the local Kolkhoz imeni Kalinin required only 18 days for carrying out the harvest work and fulfilling their task for selling raw cotton to the state. During this period, more than 4,000 tons of raw cotton were shipped to the procurement point. The Kolkhozes imeni Zhdanov, imeni Karl Marx and imeni Kuybyshev are close to achieving their planned goals. The farmers in Matchinskiy Rayon, in behalf of the Great October holiday, have resolved to fulfill their obligations for selling cotton to the state and to supply it with no less than 60,000 tons.

Based upon the experience of past years, the flow-line harvesting method "hopper - wagon - procurement point" is being employed more extensively by the machine operators in Il'ichevskiy, Yavanskiy, Zaferobodskiy and Kuybyshevskiy Rayons. Here one will not see freshly harvested snow-white heaps of cotton among the plantations -- it is shipped immediately for processing. Each machine operator is achieving high results as a result of efficient interaction among all of the harvesting teams.

In addition to the veterans, many young machine operators are also achieving high outputs.

But the equipment is not being employed in a skilful manner in all areas. Reductions in machine harvesting output have been experienced in Isfarinskiy, Kulyabskiy, Ordzhonikidzeabadskiy, Leninskiy and Tursunzadevskiy Rayons. After being harvested, the raw cotton at times accumulates out on the fields owing to the fact that the tractor wagons are tied up waiting to be unloaded at the gates of the procurement points. As a result, the daily output of a combine here is 1.5-2 tons, or just one third of the task. A considerable number of the combines in these rayons are not being operated at all. Some specialists attempt to blame this situation on unfavorable weather conditions, which interfered with the proper defoliation of the cotton plants. But this was not the sole problem. The new GOST /state standard/ is being employed in all areas. Earlier the machine harvested cotton, regardless of its quality, was paid for at the rate for 1st grade. Today the computation is being based upon the actual quality of the raw cotton. And the difference is

rather appreciable. On a number of farms the fields were not prepared in advance for machine harvesting operations: weeds remained on the fields and the leaves were not removed completely from the cotton plants. Naturally, the hopper raw cotton from such plantations is characterized by a high degree of weediness and thus the leaders of the farms rely upon manual harvesting operations. But this tends to prolong the harvest schedules and it results in lower quality fiber.

Brigades and teams which operate according to the group contract method perform this work in a zealous and responsible manner. There are presently more than 1,200 such brigades and teams in cotton production. As a rule, greater order prevails in such brigades and teams and higher yields are obtained. The brigade headed by M. Butayev at the Kolkhoz imeni Zhdanov in Kumsangirskiy Rayon, after undertaking a contract for the production of fine-fiber cotton, immediately rejected manual harvesting operations and decided to rely upon the use of machines. And what was the result? The collective is already completing its mass harvesting of cotton. Forty quintals were obtained from each hectare. All of the raw cotton is of 1st grade quality. The brigade will obtain not less than 10 quintals from the final cleaning of the fields. Only 10 rubles were expended for each ton of cotton harvested.

Many similar examples reflecting the effectiveness of the group contract method could be cited. Unfortunately, the majority of the grain growers are still operating on a piece-rate wage basis. Their conversion to the progressive system for labor organization would promote a solution for the problem concerned with the machine harvesting of cotton. As yet, the farms are employing machines for harvesting only one third of the crop. The expenses for manual labor payments "are consuming" almost one half of the above-plan profits.

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BRIEFS

COMPETITION LEADERS--Chimkent Oblast--The harvesting of cotton is in full swing on the cotton plantations in southern Kazakhstan. The oblast's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have delivered the initial 100,000 tons of "white gold" to the procurement points. Since the start of the harvest campaign, the cotton growers in Turkestanskiy Rayon have seized the leadership in the competition. During the first 10 days of the mass harvesting work, they succeeded in fulfilling the raw cotton procurement plan by 30 percent. The farms in Pakhtaaralskiy Rayon are carrying out their harvest work at a rapid tempo, having vowed this year to raise the overall volume of raw cotton procurements to 100,000 tons. /by Yu.Livinskiy/ /Excerpts/ /Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

COTTON DELIVERIES--Chimkent Oblast--More than 170,000 tons of raw cotton have been delivered to procurement points in Chimkent Oblast. The daily deliver volume is now 7,000-8,000 tons of high quality raw materials. A decisive role has been played by the machine operators almost since the very beginning of the harvest work: each day they are unloading 8,000-9,000 tons of cotton from the hoppers of their combines. The farmers in Turkestanskiy, Dzhetysayskiy and Pakhtaaralskiy Rayons are the leaders in the competition. High rates have been achieved here in harvesting and delivering the cotton as a result of efficient work by all elements of the harvesting-transport production line. Harvest work has now been in progress for 3 weeks out on the cotton fields in Chimkent Oblast. Dozens of collectives have reported fulfillment of their plans. New virgin land farms in Chardarinskiy Rayon have commenced their harvest work out on the cotton fields. /by A. Utyaganov/ /Excerpts/ /Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

EMPHASIS ON QUALITY--Chimkent Oblast--The oblast's cotton fields appear to be dressed out in a white covering of snow. The most important period is at hand for the cotton growers -- the harvesting of the crop. The hand-picking experts, who launched the start of the "white harvest" on the ripe cotton fields, which have shed their green leaves following defoliation, are being followed by the combines. The plans call for the combines to gather in the principal portion of the crop. The machine operators in Turkestanskiy Rayon, who have been organized into 14 consolidated harvesting-transport complexes, were the first to move their combines out into the crop rows. They immediately began operating at a high tempo. The largest cotton field is in Pakhtaaralskiy Rayon. This year the agricultural workers promise to supply the textile industry with more than 100,000 tons of raw cotton, 80,000 tons of

which will be harvested by machines. Thirty two harvesting-transport complexes, the structure of which includes 542 cotton harvesting combines, 105 special machines and approximately 3,000 bulk freight wagons for transporting cotton, have been created in the rayon for the duration of the harvest period. A high degree of mechanization, commencing with the very first days of the harvest campaign, is making it possible for them to achieve fine indicators. This year special attention is being given to the quality of the raw cotton being harvested. Whereas earlier the cotton was subdivided according to the harvesting method -- manual or machine -- today it is also being categorized according to grade. The field workers are striving to observe in a strict manner the flow line technology for harvesting the crop and to deliver only high quality cotton to the procurement points. With each passing day the "white harvest" is increasing in tempo. The cotton growers in southern Kazakhstan are devoting all of their efforts to ensuring that the harvest work is carried out rapidly and without losses and that the raised socialist obligations are successfully fulfilled. /by Yu. Livinskiy, Chimkent Oblast/ /excerpts/ /Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 1/ 7026

VALUABLE COTTON VARIETY--Dushanbe--The procurement centers in southern Tajikistan have begun receiving fine-fiber cotton from the valuable Tajik breed 6249-v variety. This cotton is distinguished by high quality and strong fiber used in the production of the best fabrics. In filling the order of the textile workers, republic farms expanded their sowings of this variety by 10,000 hectares this year. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 13 Sep 83 p 1] 7026

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

Sverdlovsk URAL'SKIYE NIVY in Russian No 8, Aug 83 pp 39-43

/Article by N. Vostrikov, Candidate of Economic Sciences: "Greater Beef Production"/

/Text/ One of the most urgent tasks assigned to the country's livestock breeders by the 26th CPSU Congress is that of increasing the production of beef. An all-union conference held in Orenburg in late May was dedicated to this problem, with discussions taking place on problems associated with the technology for pedigree beef cattle husbandry. In particular, in the reports issued by VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/ Academician A.V. Cherekayev and V.V. Korzhenevskiy (USSR Ministry of Agriculture) and in the speeches by Professor G.I. Bel'kov (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Butter-and-Cheese-Making Industry), Professor D.L. Levantin (All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Livestock Breeding), Professor A.N. Dorotyuk (Ukrainian SSR), Professor L.P. Prakhov (Gorkiy Agricultural Institute) and others, it was mentioned in particular that the rates of development for beef cattle husbandry as an independent branch are still very low. The existing technologies for the raising and fattening of cattle are not ensuring a high productivity for the animals and they are resulting in feed over-expenditures, a high production cost for the beef and low profitability for the branch. The participants in the conference prepared recommendations for improving the cattle fattening technology and raising the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry.

This article by Candidate of Economic Sciences N.I. Vostrikov is devoted to certain organizational-economic and technological problems associated with raising the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry and it is recommended for the attention of the readers.

In the Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR During 1981-1985 and for the Period Up To 1990, approved during the 26th CPSU Congress, the plans call for the annual production of meat to be raised to 17-17.5 million tons (in dressed weight). Moreover, beef must occupy a considerable place in the country's overall meat balance.

Economic computations and the practice of leading farms in our country and also foreign experience have shown that by means of dairy cattle husbandry alone, even with very intensive use for meat purposes of replacement animals, it is impossible to satisfy the population's requirements for beef and veal or those of industry for heavy leather raw materials. Moreover, the meat of dairy cattle is considerably inferior in quality to the meat of beef strains of cattle. In this regard, the creation in our country of specialized beef cattle husbandry operations is considered to be a vital need.

In this present article, we would like to discuss in somewhat greater detail certain organizational-economic and technological aspects of beef cattle husbandry.

The slow rates of development for beef cattle husbandry at the present time are conditioned to a considerable degree by the low productivity of dairy cows and by a shortage of milk. With an increase in the milk yields to 2,700 - 3,000 kilograms per cow, the population's requirements for milk and dairy products will be satisfied completely and the need for developing beef cattle husbandry will increase sharply.

It is our opinion that the unsatisfactory production and economic indicators for beef cattle husbandry are explained mainly by the fact that the organizational-administrative arrangement at a majority of the beef sovkhozes does not conform to their specialization: beef cattle husbandry, not being the leading branch, provides only 13-40 percent of the overall volume of annual income.

In addition, the logistical base at these sovkhozes is quite often weak, the structure of the sowing areas does not always ensure the production of the feed quality required, the problems concerned with bringing about radical improvements in the natural feed lands, the flooding and irrigation of pastures are solved in a very slow manner and the proportion of cheap pasture feed is not being raised.

The majority of the beef sovkhozes are multiple-branch farms with a complete turnover of the herd and only some of them have intra-farm specialization: there are farms for obtaining and raising calves up until weaning, for raising replacement young stock and for the fattening of cattle.

Meanwhile the process of animal husbandry specialization and concentration being carried out throughout the country calls for the creation of new forms of farm cooperation in the production of beef on an industrial basis. In our opinion the cooperation structure must include farms -- producers of beef type calves, specialized farms for the raising of heifers and non-calving young cows and also fattening complexes or sites. In the process, consideration must be given to all of the specific factors exerting an influence on production efficiency and particularly -- the condition of the feed lands, the availability of feed for the livestock, the presence of labor resources and the logistical base.

In the steppe, semi-desert and mountainous zones, which are distinguished by meagre pastures and small populations, the farms should ideally specialize in

the reproduction of calves. Here the technology for beef cattle husbandry must call for maximum use of cheap pasture feed and seasonal calvings of the cows during the spring months. The weaning of calves from the cows should take place in the autumn, at the same time. Prior to the onset of inclement weather, the cows should be made ready for winter, with sufficient reserve nutrients being created in their organisms. During the winter they can be maintained in light-duty facilities and kept on moderate rations. Following weaning, the calves are turned over to specialized farms having good feed bases for subsequent raising and fattening.

Experience also indicates that in zones of beef cattle husbandry the young stock can be fattened successfully at sites which are distinguished by a high degree of economical operations.

In regions of intensive farming, where plowing up of the land is carried out on an extensive scale, greater use must be made of the more progressive technologies for beef cattle husbandry. The foundation for such technologies -- intensive feed production in a field crop rotation plan with a maximum feed yield per hectare of land. The greatest results are produced by the same type of feeding being supplied to the livestock throughout the year.

With the same type of feeding, improvements are realized in the utilization of a feed hectare of arable land, since all of the crops are harvested in accordance with scientifically sound agrotechnical periods and during that period of the growing season when the vegetative bulk contains a maximum amount of nutrients. As a result, the overall feed yield per hectare increases by 15-20 percent. A mandatory requirement is that of creating insurance supplies of high quality feed. As a rule, the cows and calves are maintained on a year-round, non-pasture open range basis. For ensuring motion by the animals, the grazing yard area for a cow with calf is increased to 24-30 square meters and it includes hills or embankments. Wind protective shields are installed in each plot on the side of the prevailing winds and at a distance of 50-60 meters from the farm -- snow fences. The withdrawal of waste water is achieved by leveling off the territory of a farm and by creating longitudinal and transverse slopes in the feed-grazing yards, where throughout almost the entire year the cattle are fed. During especially inclement weather, the feed is distributed to a facility by means of fixed or mobile feeding troughs.

In addition to the traditional technology (maintenance of cows and calves during the summer on pastures and in stalls during the winter), year-round non-pasture maintenance of animals is being employed at an experimental farm of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Beef Cattle Husbandry and has been in use for a number of years. An industrial complex has been built here that includes two cow barns, two light duty type facilities, a feed preparation shop, a multiple purpose point for the carrying out of zooveterinary measures and storehouse facilities. Each cow barn is divided into two sections. A section of the first cow barn is equipped with a delivery room and the second section is used for newly calved cows with calves in which the cows are maintained until fruitful fertilization, at which point they are transferred to a section of the second cow barn. Following weaning of the calves, the cows are placed in a fourth section and the young stock are sent to a fattening site that is interlinked with the light duty type facility.

Such a technology calls for a brigade organization of labor and will ensure a sufficiently high labor productivity, since the animals will be maintained in large groups and thus the efficiency of use of mechanized equipment will increase sharply.

The intensive feeding of young stock during the raising and suckling periods and early training in the eating of all types of feed are making it possible to carry out the weaning work to a live weight of 220-240 kilograms. With subsequent intensive fattening, the live weight of young bulls at 14-16 months of age is raised to 450-500 kilograms.

A similar technology is being employed successfully at the Zimovniki Stud Farm in Rostov Oblast, the Stepnoy Sovkhoz in the Kalmyk ASSR, at the Avangard and Ural'skiy Sovkhozes in Orenburg Oblast and on some other farms.

In our opinion, a restraining factor in the development of beef cattle husbandry is the absence of a uniform and efficient technology for the maintenance and feeding of beef cattle. On many farms, beef cattle husbandry is based upon a technology borrowed from dairy cattle husbandry, with the cattle quite often being maintained in stalls in substantial and costly facilities marked by a low level of mechanization of production processes. As a result, the cost of a cattle billet reaches 1200-1500 rubles, the workload per worker is low -- 50-60 head, the labor expenditures per quintal of product is more than 35-40 manhours and the production cost per quintal of weight increase is high -- 190-200 rubles.

In the case of beef cattle, there are almost no efficient standard plans for farms and complexes which call for the introduction of a progressive technology for the maintenance and feeding of animals in conformity with certain natural-economic conditions. In this regard, a need has arisen for accelerating the development of such standard plans. Beef cattle husbandry is characterized by a low capital-output ratio. Thus one task associated with the planning of farms and complexes for beef cattle is that of lowering the specific capital investments per cattle billet and reducing expenditures for the maintenance of beef cows. However the existing system for planning and especially construction stimulates the development and construction of expensive animal husbandry facilities, involving the use of very costly materials. This makes it possible for the builders, even in the face of small volumes, to fulfill easily their plans from a cost standpoint.

In Orenburg Oblast there is absolutely no requirement for substantial beef cattle facilities that were constructed using costly structures. Extensive use has been made here of light structures and cheap local building materials and this has made it possible to lower the cost of a cattle-billet to 320-350 rubles. Thus, for example, at the Sputnik Sovkhoz in Svetlinskiy Rayon, which numbers more than 1,600 beef cows, an industrial complex for 1,200 beef cows with calves and a gross production of 3,690 quintals of weight increase was built in 1973. The complex achieved its planned capability in 1978 in terms of its principal production indicators. The calf yield per 100 cows and non-calving young cows is 100 head and the average daily weight increase in young stock up to 8 months of age -- 631-773 grams. Since it was first placed in operation, the number of cattle at the complex has increased by 58 percent and increases have taken place in the weight gains in young stock and in the calf yields.

The Sputnik Sovkhoz is a producer of the Kalmyk strain for the eastern virgin land regions of Orenburg Oblast. The foundation of the herd -- pure bred young bulls imported in 1969 from the Kalmyk ASSR. Breeding work began in 1974 in the sovkhoz's second department. Three hundred pure bred cows were selected from the overall herd based upon their breeding-genetic characteristics, with sire-bulls of the appropriate strain being imported from Aktyubinsk.

In recent years, a great amount of work has been carried out here in connection with increasing the numbers of Kalmyk cattle. In addition to pure-strain breeding, experiments are being carried out in the absorptive crossing of cows of the Kazakh Belogolovaya and Short Horn strains with Kalmyk bulls. The number of cattle reached 4,873 head by 1 January 1983, including 4,389 pure strain types. Over the next few years, the plans call for the hybrid animals to be completely replaced by pure strain types.

In the complex of measures for developing beef cattle husbandry at the sovkhoz, a great amount of attention is being given to creating a strong feed base: the structure of the sowing areas is being improved, improvements are being carried out in the agricultural practices being employed in the cultivation of forage crops and highly productive varieties are being introduced into operations. Hay procurements increased from 22,000 quintals in 1976 to 35,000 quintals in 1982 and increases took place in the laying in of silage and haylage.

However the cost of feed still remains high and thus in the production cost structure for 1 quintal of weight increase feed accounts for 105-130 rubles, or 50-60 percent of all expenditures.

The authorities at the sovkhoz are convinced that high productivity is unthinkable in the absence of well organized feed preparation operations. Towards this end, a feed preparation shop was built at the complex in 1976 which makes it possible to prepare semi-damp feed mixtures. The ration structure includes hay, straw, silage or haylage and concentrates. The feed is issued three times in the grazing-feed yards and watering is carried out using heated water issued from AGK-4 group drinking bowls.

The efficiency of beef cattle husbandry operations is greatly dependent upon the organization of herd reproduction work. Priority attention is being given to this work at the sovkhoz. Zootechnical accounting is well organized at the complex, the cows are being inspected on a regular basis for pregnancy and barren cows and those which have not come into heat are being treated in a timely manner. Delivery sections have been equipped for receiving the calves, with strict sanitary order being maintained in these areas. This is making it possible for the collective at the complex to protect all of the newborn calves.

One peculiarity associated with the organization of herd reproduction work at the complex is the carrying out of calving operations in January - March. The farm obtains up to 85 percent of its calves during a period of 3 months. The number of calvings is especially high during January (up to 50 percent).

Since 1975, young cattle stock have been raised at the Sputnik Sovkhoz using the intensive method. Commencing when they are 10 days old, the calves learn

how to eat coarse and concentrated feed. Feeding troughs are installed in special sections for this purpose, sections which have trapdoors for the free entering and exiting of the calves. Training calves to consume different types of feed during the suckling period promotes more intensive growth in them and it shortens the transitional period from milk to non-milk nourishment. The average daily weight increase in the young stock is 700-850 grams and the live weight of the calves reaches 185-200 kilograms by the time they are weaned.

An intensification of beef cattle husbandry requires that heifers be drawn into herd turnover operations at an earlier age. Experiments conducted at the Sputnik Sovkhoz reveal that the intensive raising of heifers promotes their early physiological and economic ripeness and more rapid reproduction of the herd. With intensive raising, the heifers in a test group reached a live weight of 365 kilograms at 16 months of age, whereas in the control group -- not until 24 months of age. The average daily weight increase in the test heifers, from birth to 16 months of age, was 706 grams and for the control animals -- 517 grams. The test heifers were mated at the age of 16 months when they had achieved a live weight of 340-360 kilograms. In the case of well developed test heifers, sexual maturity occurred 5-6 months earlier than that for animals in the control group. The intensive raising or early mating of the heifers did not adversely affect either their live weight following calving or the offspring obtained from them.

The early mating of heifers is profitable also from an economic standpoint: the period for the raising of cows is shortened, feed expenditures are reduced by 18-24 percent, labor expenditures and the production costs for feed are lowered by 16-22 percent and the turnover in assets is accelerated by 10-14 percent.

Each year the sovkhoz raises 600-700 heifers of the Kalmyk strain. In addition to expanding reproduction of the herd, it is also selling 300-450 pedigree heifers and 100-120 young bulls to other farms annually. Bulls which do not have any pedigree value are matured at the Svetlinskiy Inter-farm Fattening Site and at the age of 17-18 months they are delivered to a meat combine at an average live weight of 450-470 kilograms, with the average daily weight increase during maturing being 900 grams.

By carrying out purposeful work associated with reproduction of the herd, the farm increased its number of pure strain cows from 300 head in 1974 to more than 1,600 head at the present time.

The Sputnik Sovkhoz over-fulfilled its plans for selling meat to the state during the 10th Five-Year Plan and the first 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan. Following the placing in operation of the industrial complex, meat production increased by 37 percent compared to the average annual production for the 10th Five-Year Plan.

One of the chief reasons for the low economic efficiency of beef cattle husbandry is the extremely low average daily weight increases in the young stock during raising and fattening.

Beef cattle husbandry can be profitable when the average daily increase in live weight in the calves is 950-1,000 grams. Only then is it possible to

cover the expenses required for maintaining young stock and cows and to obtain 350-400 rubles worth of profit from the sale of one head. But as yet the daily productivity of young stock, even on the best specialized farms, does not exceed 750-800 grams. It is especially low during the suckling period.

The fattening technology employed in our country for fattening beef animals is based as a rule on pasture maintenance for calves. The periods for raising young stock are being dragged out, the percentage of cows in a herd is decreasing and there are many animals which are not utilizing the feed in a productive manner. All of this lowers the efficiency of beef cattle husbandry. Meanwhile, a calf can achieve a weaning live weight of not less than 180 kilograms at 8 months of age, with an average daily weight increase of 650 grams. For a lesser weight increase, the suckling period for the young stock is continued for more than 10 months and the cattle are turned over for meat purposes when they are more than 2 years of age.

This is why a number of farms in our oblast have rejected grazing for calves. Today they are being maintained separately in summer camps and they have free access to water and feed. The cows are grazing on pastures and feeding milk to their offspring 2-3 times daily.

This method for raising calves is being employed in a skilful manner at the sovkhozes Ural'skiy and Teplovskiy in Pervomayskiy Rayon, Avangard in Akbulakskiy Rayon, Belogorskiy in Belyayevskiy Rayons and at other farms. Young bulls raised according to an experimental technology reached an initial pre-fattening weight (180-200 kilograms) even before they were 8 months of age -- one and a half months earlier. During 1982, more than 40,000 young bulls were raised according to this method on farms throughout the oblast.

Considerable importance is attached to organizing the intensive raising and fattening of young cattle in the interest of increasing beef production. Studies have established the fact that young cattle are distinguished by a high adaptive resistance to low temperatures and by a broad range for the thermoneutral zone. Thus they can be fattened in the absence of substantial facilities and with reduced expenditures of labor and resources.

A series of experiments carried out by workers at VNIIMS /All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Butter and Cheese-Making Industry/ and other institutes, in various climatic zones, has underscored the high degree of effectiveness to be realized from the fattening of cattle at various types of sites. At the same time, it has been established that the technology for fattening cattle at sites and the design solution for such sites must conform to the specific natural-climatic peculiarities of the zone.

In the case of maintenance at sites, the condition of the animals and their productivity are greatly influenced by climatic factors: temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, insolation and so forth. The average daily weight increases for young stock in Orenburg Oblast during the autumn and winter are roughly 19 percent lower and feed expenditures per unit of weight increase 20-30 percent higher than during spring and summer. With the onset of favorable weather, the average daily weight increases in the animals increase to a larger degree and this is borne out by the fact that the

physiological characteristics of an organism which developed under the influence of cold conditions are stable in nature and its compensatory potential is raised.

At sites in Orenburg Oblast which are located in a zone marked by a stern and sharp continental climate (amplitude of temperature fluctuations 85-90°C), substantial corrections are made to the animal rations during the colder months: their overall nutritional value is raised and their structure changed. In addition, the thickness of the bedding is increased and additional measures are undertaken for removing snow and farmyard manure from the plots and for protecting the animals against wind.

Considerable importance is attached to well organized feed preparation operations. Feed preparation shops have been built at all of the inter-farm sites, where the feed is milled, mixed and enriched with proteins, mineral substances and vitamins. Granulators and briquetting machines have been installed in many of the shops. Different recipes are used in making granules and briquettes for the various age groups. The recipes are changed depending upon the season of the year.

The observance of the technological conditions mentioned above and some others serve to ensure high weight increases during the winter months. Thus, during December, which was a very severe winter month over the past 4 years, weight increases of from 900 to 1,120 grams were obtained at three sites and from 700 to 800 grams at eight sites.

Knowledge of the process of adapting animals to various environmental conditions is the basis for creating plans for more improved facilities and fattening sites. The mentioned circumstance has prompted the development of a new plan for a fattening site that calls for the interlocking of pens with facilities of the light duty type and the installation of snow and wind protection arrangements and elevated sectors in the form of hillocks. In the interest of improving the sanitary status, the area of the pens is increased to 18-24 square meters per head. For farms which do not have an adequate quantity of bedding material, provision is made for a site to be equipped with boxes.

A comparative study of the effectiveness of fattening operations carried out at sites of the new type (see Table) has shown that the average daily weight increases for gelded bulls were 15.2 percent higher from December to March. In December the daily weight increase for animals in a test group was higher by 21.8 percent and in January -- by 23.2 percent. From December to March, for each kilogram of weight increase obtained in the gelded bulls in the test group 8.4 feed units were expended and for a control group -- 10.6 feed units. In December and January this difference increased to 26.6 and 30.2 percent.

Of strains bred in the southern Urals zone, the highest productivity during fattening at sites was observed in young stock of the Kazakh Belogolovaya strain. The average daily weight increases for this strain were 9.4 percent higher than that for the Krasnaya Steppe strain and 1.7 percent higher than the Simmental'skaya strain. It is worthy of note that during the cold period of the year the productivity of animals of the Kazakh Belogolovaya strain

decreased to a lesser degree. Over a period of 8 months, gelded animals of all of the mentioned strains achieved a rather high live weight -- 440-470 kilograms. During freezing and windless weather the cattle as a rule do not depart their shelter, they consume their feed more willingly and they rest and lie around more. In the process, their average daily weight increases decrease to a lesser degree.

Effectiveness of Fattening of Young Stock at Sites of a Different Type

Indicator	Maintenance Conditions: Exposed Site	Maintenance Conditions: Site Interlocked With Light Duty Type Facility
Live weight during assignment at 9 months of age, kg.	222.6	221.3
Live weight at 17 months of age, kg.	440.0	451.9
Average daily weight increase, grams	870.0	919.0
including for December - March, grams	737.0	845.0
Weight (carcass), kg.	233.0	236.9
Feed consumption per kg of weight increase, feed units	9.40	8.18
including from December - March	10.62	8.37
Production cost per quintal of weight increase, rubles	76.93	78.50
Profit from sale of 1 head, rubles	474.88	487.50

Thus it is our opinion that the principal organizational-economic and technological conditions for fattening cattle at sites must be:

...full-value feeding to the cattle, throughout the entire fattening period, of feed that was prepared for fattening. During the winter months it must compensate for the additional expenditures of energy by an organism in order to maintain homeostasis;

...a dry den for resting. This can be achieved by interlocking the sites with light duty type facilities or triple-walls and creating deep bedding in them and in the absence of such bedding -- installation of boxes;

...for improving the sanitary status of the pens, the sites should be located on terrain having a slope of 3-4 degrees, with hard surfaces being provided in zones marked by large amounts of precipitation;

...on the side of the prevailing winds, the sites must be protected by a fence for a distance of 40-50 meters and each pen must be enclosed by a fence;

...during the winter months the cattle must be provided with heated water;

...the cattle must be prepared in advance for fattening at the sites. The calves of dairy strains, raised as a rule in warm facilities, must undergo "acclimatization" in unheated buildings offering free access to grazing yards.

The calves of beef strains, following the suckling period, must be removed from the cows and trained to consume coarse and succulent feeds;

...groups of young stock for fattening must be composed taking into account the live weight and age and the groups must remain unchanged until the completion of fattening.

In addition to these conditions, on farms in Orenburg Oblast, where approximately 70 percent of the young stock sold to the state are fattened at sites, a complex of measures has been developed for raising the efficiency of beef production. It includes tasks for leading farms aimed at strengthening the feed base, raising the level of mechanization of production processes and improving the professional expertise of the cattle tender-operators and also a system of incentives for indicators achieved.

Each year, approximately 200,000 head of cattle are fattened to a live weight of 400 kilograms or more at inter-farm sites in the oblast. The average daily weight increase for the animals during the 1974-1982 period was 688 grams and this was considerably higher than the figure for kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The labor expenditures per quintal of weight increase dropped to 6-7 man-hours and that for feed to 9-10 quintals of feed units. It bears mentioning that the conversion of beef production over to an industrial basis took place without a considerable increase in capital investments. Roughly 33.5 million rubles were expended for the construction of the fattening sites and during the period of their operation more than 130 million rubles worth of profit were obtained, that is, the expenditures were repaid fourfold. This makes it possible for the farms to carry out work aimed at increasing the capabilities of the sites, using a portion of the profits for this purpose. At the present time, some sites are already receiving young stock the live weight of which is 120-140 kg and future plans call for all calves to be accepted for maturing and fattening following the milking period. In this regard, the design solution for newly built phases of these sites has been changed somewhat. For the maintenance of young stock during the adaptation period, the facilities are being equipped with boxes with feeding troughs.

In conclusion I would like to state that there are large reserves in Orenburg Oblast for further increasing the production of beef. They are embodied in carrying out improvements in reproducing the herd, raising the young stock, increasing their live delivery weights, reducing the periods of time required for raising them, introducing crossings of cows and heifers of dairy and combined specialized productivities with beef strains of bulls and creating a strong feed base.

Over the past 15 years, the number of cattle in the oblast has increased by a factor of 3.3, including cows by a factor of 2.6. The necessary logistical base has been created for the development of beef cattle husbandry, a base which is capable of making this branch highly efficient and increasing the number of beef cattle to 248,000 head by 1985, including up to 95,000 cows. In the future, the oblast's beef cattle husbandry operations will become one of the largest suppliers of high quality meat.

7026
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STATE PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS REVIEWED, PROBLEMS NOTED

Moscow ZAKUPKI SEL'SKOKHOZYAYSTVENNYKH PRODUKTOV in Russian No 8, Aug 83 pp 1-4

[Article by P. Chaykin, USSR Deputy Minister of Procurement: "Fulfillment of the State Plan for Procurements of Agricultural Products as the Main Condition for Implementing the Food Program"]

[Excerpt] Owing to the state procurements system it is possible to supply the population regularly and universally with bread, macaroni products, sugar and canned fish and vegetables. At the same time, the demand for some foodstuffs as yet exceeds their production levels. In view of this and in accordance with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the Food Program provides for high growth rates of the production and procurements of all kinds of agricultural products.

In outlining these goals the party and state provide all the necessary material and organizational premises for attaining them. In recent years a number of decisions has been taken to streamline the economic mechanism and strengthen the economies of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, provide them with additional modern means of production and strengthen the material interest of agricultural workers in increasing the production and sales to the state of agricultural production and improving its quality.

The party and government place great hopes in the recently established agro-industrial associations. The November (1982) CPSU Central Committee Plenum evaluated the first steps taken to implement the Food Program and took note of the selfless labor of rural toilers under the complex weather conditions of last year. Once again the attention of the participants in the agro-industrial complex was drawn to the need to make the efforts of the working people and the huge resources allocated to agriculture yield benefits to the country even now and on a still greater scale in the future.

Currently it is highly important for all procurement organizations and state procurement inspectorates to determine their place in the agro-industrial complex and wage a resolute struggle to strengthen state procurement discipline and assure an unconditional plan fulfillment by every farm and rayon.

In this connection it is both necessary and highly important for the employees of the procurement system to determine clearly and explicitly their place and role in the agro-industrial complex from the standpoint of the requirements of the Food Program. At all levels of that system close coordination with the

agro-industrial complex should be assured and responsibility for fulfilling the procurement plans as the end-result of agricultural production should be tightened. Here it should be borne in mind that improvements in the nation's food supply largely hinge on the increase in the salable agricultural production and in the volume of the procurements of agricultural products for state stockpiles. The point is that nearly 90 percent of the salable output of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes reaches the consumer via the system of state procurements. It is that system which provides almost all bread sugar and vegetable oil available to the population, plus 70-80 percent of the products of animal husbandry, potatoes, vegetables and fruits.

The agricultural products in raw and processed form serving to feed people as well as the goods produced from agricultural raw materials account altogether for three-fourths of all consumer goods. Hence, fulfilling the state procurement plans is important to the entire national economy from the standpoint of solving the basic economic task posed to the country by the 26th CPSU Congress and the Food Program.

Stable supplies of bread, groats, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, sugar and vegetable oil to the population as well as improvement in the supply of the products of animal husbandry are possible only if the related state procurement plans are fulfilled, quality is improved and storage is assured.

On every sector, work should be so done as to assure a steady increase in food resources. Fewer references to the weather and more specific day-by-day concern for increasing crop yields and livestock productivity are needed. After all, the farmers of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia worked under difficult weather conditions,yet fulfilled the plan for the first 2 years of the five-year plan as regards gross agricultural production. Compared with the mean annual indicators of the previous five-year plan, a number of oblasts in the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenia did quite well. For the country as a whole, gross agricultural output in 1982 was 4 percent higher than in 1981. Grain production has increased: more rye, buckwheat and millet was added to the state's stockpiles than in the previous year.

During 1981-1982 the state procurement plan for cotton, grapes, eggs, tea leaves, wool, ambari, mulberry-fed silkworms, Karakul fleeces and fur pelts was fulfilled successfully.

At the same time, the organization of state procurements of agricultural products displays major shortcomings. Quite a few farms, rayons oblasts, krays and republics still lag behind the tasks of the five-year plan as regards the growth rates of the production and sales to to the state of grain, potatoes, vegetables and fruits, sugar beets, meat, milk and other produce. The number of the farms underfulfilling the plans is even growing instead of decreasing in certain republics, krays and oblasts. As a result, in the first 2 years of the 11th Five-Year Plan state plans for the procurement of grain, oil seeds, sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, milk, cattle and poultry have been greatly underfulfilled in the RSFSR, the UkSSR, the Kazakh SSR and the Moldavian SSR, as have been the procurement plans for potatoes, vegetables, sugar beets, milk, cattle and poultry in the Belorussian SSR.

In view of the deficient organization of the production and procurement of agricultural products, much work should be done to fulfill the decisions of the party and government in order to overcome the backlog in the development of agricultural production and the fulfillment of state procurement plans.

These days agricultural toilers, their partners in the agro-industrial complex and the procurement personnel have especially much to do: this is the peak season for harvesting operations and the preparation of fodder, and procurements of grain, vegetables, fruits and other crops as well as of animal husbandry products are under way. Efficient and tenacious work by every collective and every worker at his workstation provides the best safeguards for fulfilling the state plans and implementing the Food Program. Such is the duty spelled out in last April's decree of the USSR Council of Ministers "On Additional Measures to Assure Crop Harvesting and the Procurements of Agricultural Produce and Fodder in 1983 and Conduct a Successful Wintering of Cattle During the 1983/1984 Period."

It is worth noting that in places much has been accomplished. The kolkhozes, sovkhozes, agro-industrial associations, and the agricultural and procurement agencies and processing enterprises of ministries and departments handling the procurements of agricultural products have basically prepared competently and efficiently the material-technical facilities for the organized conduct of harvesting operations and the implementation of pledges regarding the procurements of grain and other agricultural production and the provision of a substantial stockpile of fodder on livestock farms.

All subdivisions of the APK [Agro-Industrial Complex] have taken steps to assure complete operational readiness of all grain-harvesting equipment 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the harvesting season and to staff grain-harvesting combines and reapers with skilled operators working in two shifts. Now the right conditions for this exist everywhere on the basis of the collective brigade contract system and other progressive forms of the organization of labor, with competition being widespread, for the purpose of maximizing output and achieving superior quality of performance during the harvesting season while at the same time preventing losses and reaping and storing the entire harvest.

The crucial task of agricultural production--as emphasized in the Food Program--is, as before, grain harvesting, the struggle to further accelerate the production and state procurements of high-grade grain and other food and fodder crops.

During the current harvesting season, grain procurements proceed in an organized manner in the Krasnodar and Stavropol krays, the Rostov, Volgograd, Saratov, Orenburg and various other oblasts of the Volga River Region, the Urals, the Central Chernozem Zone and the Kazakh SSR. In many rayons of those areas the agro-industrial associations indeed operate like a coherent and unified organism all of whose components work in unison to handle the harvesting and state procurements of grain and other produce, to fulfill the Food Program.

During the harvesting season a tremendous responsibility is borne by the procurement and transport enterprises and organizations. Storage capacities have

been greatly expanded. The collectives of the leading grain silos and grain-reception enterprises have completed preparing storage capacities, equipment and access tracks prior to the commencement of the procurement season. Any shortcomings detected are being immediately eliminated.

At grain-reception enterprises measures have been implemented to assure rapid weighing of grain, unloading of large-capacity trucks and trailers, and the prompt processing, drying and reliable storage of grain. Correct grading of grain and the procurement of considerable quantities of durum wheat as well as of the strong and valuable varieties of grain are being assured. An efficient procurement and transport dispatching network helps to organize smooth round-the-clock handling of the transportation and reception of grain.

But such a good organization of the harvesting and procurements of grain does not exist everywhere. In some oblasts of East and West Siberia, the South and the Forest-Steppe of the Ukrainian SSR major deficiencies still exist. On certain farms and in certain rayons of these areas considerable intervals of time are tolerated between the mowing and threshing of grain and its transportation to elevators or transfer of seeds and fodder to farm silos.

Special attention should be paid this year to increasing the production and procurement of durum and strong wheats, buckwheat and millet for the state stockpiles. Unfortunately, we are losing ground in this respect. In many oblasts, rayons, kolkhozes and sovkhozes the underfulfillment of the procurement plans for these crops has become virtually a rule. And yet, without high-grade varieties of wheat it is not possible to meet the demand of the population for good bread and macaroni and other grain products, and without groat crops it is not possible to meet the demand for buckwheats and millet. It has to be admitted that sometimes the agricultural and procurement agencies overlook this aspect. As a result, the land planted with durum wheats is shrinking, the procurements of strong wheats are diminishing owing to violations of agrotechnical and cultivation rules, and the heads of farms and grain-reception enterprises tacitly tolerate this situation.

Of course, this cannot be tolerated any longer. Measures to expand the production and state stockpiles of durum and strong wheats as well as of buckwheat and millet have been drafted, but they have yet to be implemented. A great deal of organizational work has to be carried out in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and at grain-reception and processing enterprises to assure fulfilling the procurement plan for these crops, to grade properly the procured and processed grain, and to adhere to the existing procedure for clearing accounts with and providing material incentives to the farms and experts working with these crops. At the same time, the managers and experts on farms and at grain-reception enterprises should be monitored and held strictly accountable for fulfilling the grain procurement plans as regards the variety and quality of the specified crops.

Year after year, we are underfulfilling the corn procurement plan although, as known, the Food Program specifies the demand for corn at 17-20 million tons and the procurement of corn for state stockpiles at 5.4-6 million tons.

This year the kolkhozes and sovkhozes planted much more grain corn than in the previous years. Industrialized techniques of corn cultivation are widespread. Following the example set by the leading links, brigades, collectives and

sovkhozes in North Caucasus, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Kazakhstan and the Central Chernozem Zone, the competition for harvesting 100 quintals of corn per irrigated hectare and 60-70 quintals per "bogara" [Central Asian desert soil] has become practically universal.

All this creates the premises for expanding the production of grain corn and fulfilling its procurement plan in 1983. But no time should be lost in the days that still remain to complete the preparations of equipment and facilities on farms and at grain-reception enterprises as well as the on-schedule construction of corn-processing plants along with seed-cleaning lines, grain dryers and roofed as well as tented processing areas. It is especially worth noting that large quantities of corn in cob and grain form with a high moisture content are arriving at grain-reception enterprises. To preclude losses and spoilage of corn grain, all grain dryers, grain cleaning machinery and other equipment should operate around the clock and smoothly and the schedule for the harvesting, transportation and processing of the stream of procured corn should be strictly followed.

The accomplishment of the current tasks of the Food Program largely depends on improvements in the selection and growing of the seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops. Hence, the Main Directions of the Economic and Social Development of the USSR During 1981-1985 and Through 1990, as approved by the 26th CPSU Congress, point to the need for improving the crop seed growing system, expediting its conversion to industrialized techniques, and introducing more rapidly new highly productive varieties and hybrids as well as improving the quality of seeds. This particular task concerns quite directly the system of the USSR Ministry of Procurement as well, since grain-reception enterprises perform the large-scale handling of the procurements, processing, storage and sales of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops.

At present a state reserve stockpile of varietal seeds of spring grain crops as well as a continuously renewable stockpile of the varietal seeds of winter grain crops should be established at grain-reception enterprises in Union republics, krays and oblasts. Since they are to be used for "insurance" purposes, the seeds in state stockpiles should be of a higher quality than those planted in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. However, the quality of the seeds thus stockpiled does not yet fully meet the requirements for the seeds in state stockpiles.

Of the total quantity of seeds allotted to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes needing them, so far only 60-65 percent meet the requirements for seeds in classes 1 and 2 of the state standard. This is a low indicator of work with seeds. The principal reason is that many low-quality seeds reach the state stockpiles from farms that do not specialize in growing seeds. They are contaminated with weeds that are hard to separate, and infected with diseases and pests. Spot checks by experts from the USSR Ministry of Procurement during contracting for varietal seeds in various oblasts of the RSFSR, the UkSSR, the Kazakh SSR and other Union republics, again uncovered instances in which local agencies violated the established procedure by padding the plan for the procurement of varietal seeds through the addition of considerable quantities (sometimes as much as 50 and more percent) of seeds from non-seed growing kolkhozes and sovkhozes. This indicates that local procurement ministries of the Union republics, the grain products administrations and the state procurement in-

spectorates do not display a principled approach when determining the volume of seed procurements and fulfilling the related plans, and that their monitoring of the performance of seed-growing farms and the contractors--the grain-reception enterprises, is lax.

Agro-industrial associations should solve more efficiently the problems of the planning and organization of the procurements of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops. The Union republic, ASSR, kray and oblast grain-products administrations and the grain-reception enterprises belonging to the agro-industrial associations, as well as the state procurement inspectorates, are obligated to display the proper initiative in solving the problems of improving the procurement of high-grade seeds from the 1983 harvest for the stockpiles of the state.

To assure the preparation of high-grade seeds for state stockpiles, the Union republic procurement ministries are expanding and upgrading the facilities of the grain-reception enterprises, especially as regards the reception and processing of the hybrid and varietal seeds of corn and oleaginous crops. Very little time is remaining for the mass procurement of the seeds of these crops.

The task is to organize at all grain-reception enterprises efficient--based on hourly schedules--reception, processing, drying, storage and sales of the varietal and hybrid seeds of grain, oleaginous and fodder crops, upon strictly adhering to the applicable regulations and instructions of the USSR Ministry of Procurement and the USSR Ministry of Agriculture.

The Food Program provides for implementing as soon as possible measures to improve markedly the supplies of fruits, vegetables and potatoes to the population through a further expansion of their production and procurement for state stockpiles, improvements in their quality and a drastic reduction in their losses en route from the farm to the consumer.

According to the plan for economic and social development and the procurement contracts concluded for the 1983 harvest, the procurements for that harvest should amount to: 18.1 million tons of potatoes, 21.7 million tons of vegetables and cucurbitaceous crops, 6.4 million tons of fruits and berries, and 6.3 million tons of grapes, or altogether 52.5 million tons, which is 2.8 million tons or 6 percent more than had been procured in 1982. Of the total volume of procurements of fruits, vegetables and potatoes, the enterprises, associations and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Fruit and Vegetable Processing are expected to procure 21.2 million tons; those of the USSR Ministry of Food Industry, 10.9 million tons; those of the "Tsentrsoyuz" [Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives], 15.5 million tons; and those of the USSR Ministry of Trade and other ministries and departments, 4.9 million tons. Under the plans approved by the Union republic councils of ministries, a large part of the fruit and vegetable output should be picked up directly on the farms by the procurement organizations and contractor enterprises.

This year the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other state farms have somewhat increased the plantations of potatoes and vegetables, planted more vegetables on irrigated land, improved the level of planting operations, and conducted in a well-organized manner the procurements of early fruits, vegetables and potatoes and their deliveries to cities and industrial centers.

It is important to utilize more fully the existing favorable weather conditions in the country's principal farming zones with the object of fulfilling the procurement plans and delivering potatoes, vegetables and fruits to consumers of all-Union and republic stockpiles. In view of this, the state inspectorates for the procurement and quality control of agricultural products in the autonomous republics, krays, oblasts and rayons are obligated to markedly improve their organization of state procurements of fruits, vegetables and potatoes and monitor strictly the proper determination of the quality of agricultural products and the clearing of the related accounts. They should act as objective arbiters in all disputes among the kolkhozes and sovkhozes--the providers of agricultural products--and the procurement organizations and contractor enterprises.

Major tasks face local state procurement inspectorates, procurement organizations and the contractor enterprises processing industrial crops as regards the procurements of cotton, sugar beets, tea leaves and oleaginous, fiber, essential-oil, herbal and other plants. The planned volume of sugarbeets and oleaginous and fiber crops for this year is intended to catch up with the considerable backlog that has occurred in this respect over many years and to expand the production and fulfill the procurement plans for these crops so as to provide industry with the raw materials for producing sugar, vegetable oil and other products.

Of special concern to agriculture and the entire personnel of the agro-industrial associations is increasing the production and state procurements of the products of animal husbandry, improving consumer supplies of meat and dairy products. The principal path toward expanding animal husbandry is a rapid and decisive conversion from the extensive to the intensive path of development, the strengthening of the fodder base.

It is worth noting that, despite the difficult conditions of the last wintering season, not only has the decrease in the cattle herd been averted but that herd has even increased in size. The population of young livestock has grown markedly. Some republics, krays and oblasts have increased their production and procurements of animal husbandry products. During the first half of this year, compared with a like period last year, for the country as a whole the procurements of cattle and poultry increased by 8 percent; milk, by 13 percent; and eggs, by 4 percent.

However, from the standpoint of the growth rates of the production and procurement of animal husbandry products, where the principal criterion is the extent to which the steadily growing demand of society is being met, it has to be admitted that much is yet to be accomplished in this field by farm and procurement personnel, the entire personnel of the agro-industrial complex.

A broad variety of measures to develop agriculture and implement the Food Program has been outlined in the speech of comrade Yu. V. Andropov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the conference of first secretaries of the Union republic party central committees and kray and oblast party committees on 18 April 1983. At that conference the party yet again drew attention to the need to resolve operatively, clearly, searchingly and pragmatically the problems relating to the Food Program. Here, emphasis should be placed on improving the style of work and tightening the monitoring of the fulfillment of the adopted decisions as well as tightening state and work discipline.

This year, which is of decisive importance to the entire five-year plan, started out with favorable economic conditions for the agricultural toilers and their partners in the agro-industrial complex. New procurement prices and surcharges were introduced for agricultural products and material incentives for the end-results are being increased.

New agencies for agricultural administration--the rayon, oblast, kray and republic (ASSR) agro-industrial associations--are consolidating their operations. All this affects the economy positively. It is important to confer stability on this emerged trend toward improvements in the principal economic indicators. Efficient and tenacious work by every collective and every member of the collective at his workstation provides the most reliable safeguard for fulfilling the state plans and truly implementing the Food Program.

1386
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PROBLEMS OF APK ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT DISCUSSED

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 9, Sep 83 pp 12-19

/Article by A.G. Zel'dner, Doctor of Economic Sciences, professor and senior scientific worker at the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences: "Economic Mechanism of the APK"/

/Text/ Further improvements in the efficiency of social production, under conditions involving conversion of the country's economy over to the path of intensive development, require a more complete and efficient use of all available material, financial, labor and other resources. The economic mechanism is also included among those factors which exert a great influence with regard to improving the efficiency of the economy. As noted during the 26th CPSU Congress, a further improvement in it is a necessary condition for growth in social production. The great urgency of this problem insofar as it concerns the national economy was pointed out in Yu. V. Andropov's article entitled "The Teachings of Karl Marx and Some Questions Concerning Socialist Construction in the USSR": "...Our work, directed as it is towards improving and reorganizing the economic mechanism and the forms and methods of administration, has fallen behind the requirements imposed by the level achieved in the logistical, social and spiritual development of Soviet society" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, p 13).

Special emphasis should be placed upon the fact that, distinct from other trends aimed at improving the efficiency of the economy, reorganization of the economic mechanism requires practically no additional capital investments or resources.

The economic mechanism of the APK /agroindustrial complex/ is a complicated system of organizational-economic and social-legal measures for controlling the interests of all elements in the chain "worker - enterprise - branch - state." It must bring together all of the available resources for the purpose of achieving the established goals and by employing a system of synchronously operating economic levers, with all other conditions being equal, it must ensure satisfaction of the increasing requirements of society for food goods and agricultural raw materials. The chief function of the economic mechanism is to create the conditions required for the successful implementation of the Food Program.

A modern and adequately effective economic mechanism does not appear all of a sudden. Under the conditions imposed by social means of production, it is

planned and prepared for over an extended period of time. Subsequently it is approved and only thereafter is it introduced into operational practice. Improvements in the economic mechanism -- a process which is constantly taking place in society.

The totality of economic relationships which develop among people during the production process is manifested in the form of economic (material) interests. As noted by Yu.V. Andropov: "One of the most important tasks associated with improving our national economic mechanism is that of ensuring that these interests are taken into account in an accurate manner, that they are combined with the national interests to the maximum possible degree and that they are employed as the driving force for achieving growth in the Soviet economy and improvements in its efficiency and in labor productivity" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, pp 13-14).

In the material world, the only means of existence appears as movement resulting from the interaction of various internal conflicting and constantly changing trends which are objectively inherent to it. In economic processes associated with the public ownership of the means of production, development and movement are also the result of active conflicts stemming from the very nature of developed socialism. This applies, for example, to a conflict between productive forces as the content and production relationships as the form. However, in this instance the conflicts appear as a source for progressive development and the inevitable conversion over to a more effective synthesis of the APK branches, with the APK promoting quantitative and qualitative growth in the final output of the branches. "Antagonism and contradiction" wrote V.I. Lenin "are by no means the same thing." The former disappears and the latter remains under socialism (Lenin Collection XI, p 357). In this regard, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov points out that the task "consists of correctly utilizing the contradictions of socialism as a source and stimulus for its consistent development" (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No 3, p 21).

The disparity existing between the potential accumulated in the APK branches and the insufficiently complete production relationships, which are expressed in the priority of branch interests over national economic interests, can be overcome only upon the condition that more effective measures are developed for encompassing the principal aspects of APK management of the economy.

Each stage in the development of a socialist society has its own inherent economic mechanism and the manifestation of this mechanism is both general and particular (branch) in nature. The failure to take this factor into account in the APK system can lead to a lack of balance and to a lack of conformity between the intermediate and final goals. That which is general in nature is peculiar to the entire economic mechanism and typical for the APK. However the general concept in economic practice is manifested in terms of the specific nature of the various branches of the complex and by the methods employed for solving the specific practical tasks. As a rule, the latter must change constantly with the new conditions being taken into account. The use of old methods under changing conditions of management inevitably leads to a slowdown in the rates for development and reproduction.

As already mentioned above, the problem of improving the methods of management is of permanent value for a rather prolonged period of time. Thus we are of

the opinion that in addition to constant work aimed at improving certain economic levers, a requirement exists for a long-term scientifically-sound concept for developing the economic mechanism of the APK. The availability of such a concept will make it possible to solve the social problems of the APK in a more effective manner, develop a flexible system of legal support for its functioning, prepare and recommend various approaches for solving the problems of planning, price formation, financing and so forth.

Any concept assumes the existence of a goal, strategy, stages for achieving the goals, tasks for each stage and the means and methods for carrying out the tasks.

The goal of the concept is to develop a system of long-term measures aimed at improving the planned management of the APK that will ensure, during each stage in the development of the productive forces of developed socialism, more complete satisfaction of the constantly increasing requirements of society for the finished products of the complex, with minimal expenditures of labor, material and financial resources.

The concept for the economic mechanism of the APK must be closely associated with the general trends for improving the planning methods and the organizational structure for other branches of the national economy. In principles, the optimum variant for solving this problem is that of carrying out an overall economic reform. However, owing to the complications involved in implementing it at the national economic level, we can limit ourselves initially to measures aimed at improving the economic mechanism within the system of branches for the food sub-complex of the APK, since according to V.I. Lenin's definition "the food problem provides the foundation for all of the problems" (Complete Works, Vol. 39, p 358). It is important to emphasize that the chief requirement consists of ensuring an all-round mutually coordinated approach for improving the principal elements of the economic mechanism: planning, price formation finances and others. In the process, it will be necessary to observe in a very strict manner the principles of gradualness and priorities in solving the various problems at both the branch and territorial levels.

Let us pause briefly to discuss the principal trends associated with improving the economic mechanism of the agroindustrial complex.

As emphasized in the Constitution of the USSR, the country's economy is managed based upon state plans for economic and social development. Under conditions involving action of the law of value, the planning interrelationships are supplemented by value relationships. This general statute also applies to the APK, the branches of which are supplied with prices by the state, during the course of establishing tasks in a planned manner. For such a pivotal branch of the APK as agriculture, the plan is specific in nature. The purchase prices established by the state are aimed mainly at reimbursing the enterprises for their expenditures and at the present time they are performing more of a planning-accounting function and considerably less of a stimulating function.

The approach to be used for selecting a particular concept for price formation must be determined based upon the existing ratio between supply and demand.

In the case of incomplete satisfaction of society's requirements for a particular agricultural product, objectively worse lands can be introduced into production operations in a planned manner. The purchase prices for products produced on them should be established taking into account ONZT /obshchestvenno neobkhodimyye zatraty truda; socially necessary labor expenditures/ for those enterprises operating under very poor natural-economic production conditions. As improvements are realized in supply and in satisfying demand, the limits of the very poor conditions change and the ONZT level is determined by the existing business conditions of the socialist market.

Further improvements in prices within the concept of the economic mechanism must be predicated upon the following basic principles.

Along the entire path leading from the producer to the consumer, the true expenditures of the enterprises must be reflected more completely in the prices. Special importance is attached in this regard to taking into account in the production cost (as the basis for the price) all expenditures associated with the process of simple reproduction at the enterprise level. At the present time, the production costs at agricultural enterprises do not take into account fines, sanctions, forfeits, expenses for social-domestic services, capital investment expenditures, expenses for applying lime, maintenance of irrigation systems and so forth. In addition, great expenses are borne by the state for covering the difference between the purchasing and wholesale (accounting) prices for the agricultural products. For example, the accounting prices established for meat and milk and considerably lower than the actual production costs.

In the future, further improvements in price formation in the APK must be achieved in the following manner: maximum suitability of a price for understanding and analysis, stability (as a minimum for a five-year period) in the form of uniform union prices, use of the principle of price mobility at the oblast (kray) level within the framework of the overall total amount of prices, comprehensive taking into account of the quality of the products when planning prices and their differentiation on this basis and ensuring the profitability norm required for the goals of expanded reproduction.

In solving these problems, a great role must be played by the decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improving the Economic Interrelationships of Agriculture With Other Branches of the National Economy," adopted in conformity with the decisions handed down during the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

This decree outlines a broad complex of measures for regulating price formation for agricultural products. In particular, it has been established that when determining the purchasing price level for agricultural products for the next five-year plan emphasis should be placed upon the need for achieving the branch norm for total profitability, with consideration being given to the planned production and purchasing volumes for the agricultural products, capital supply for the farms, the wage level and other planned expenditures for producing the agricultural products, while calling for an increase in the efficiency of agricultural production, improvements in the use of fixed and working capital and and a reduction in material expenditures.

Under the existing conditions for determining the actual expenditures for producing goods, it is difficult to discuss the establishment of a sound price ratio when making reimbursement for expenses in the APK branches. It would be more correct, during subsequent stages in implementing improvements in the economic mechanism, to solve this problem based upon the ONZT for the branch's final output.

An objective need exists for constructing a price model that is not isolated or closed for just one specialized branch, but which takes into account the national economic proportions, financial opportunities and the degree of material support in the form of monetary funds received, that is, the problem regarding a system of planned prices for the APK.

The conversion over to a single method for validating a price system for the APK necessarily raises the need for centralizing the entire system of price formation such that the branches will not establish the prices (based upon their own interests), but rather the prices will take into account mainly the interests of the APK and stimulate high final results for it.

In the case of tasks which are made available to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes on a centralized basis, the state is forced to cover all expenditures associated with the production of goods on poor lands which were drawn into social production in a planned manner. The best, average and worst conditions for production are objective in nature. Hence, a mechanism is required for distributing the diferentiated incomes. Its maximum effectiveness is possible only on the basis of an economic evaluation of the land and other resources. The introduction of rent payments, taking into account the quality of the land, possesses a number of advantages compared to the differentiation of prices. First of all, this concerns strengthening the cost accounting relationships, since the availability of an evaluation of the resources makes it possible to provide practically each farm with sound rental rates. Secondly, all earnings obtained as a result of intensification and a higher level of administration will in this instance remain on the farms and be used for raising the material interest of the workers in further increasing the production of goods.

Any deviation in a price from the ONZT signifies a modification of it. It derives from the fact that, based upon the formation of converted forms of value, the social value assumes local differentiation and individualization (see V.S. Nemchinov. Selected Works. Moscow, 1969, Vol. 6, p 235). In the process, society conscientiously registers a number of expenditures at the level for a region, zone or group of farms, for the purpose of differentiating their accounting and creating roughly equal managerial conditions. During the first stage the regional expenditure levels for the agricultural products and their corresponding purchase price level must be determined. During the second stage the regional prices are differentiated by krays, oblasts and republics, taking into account the actual existing expenditures and the assigned rates of production.

The economic importance of purchase price differentiation lies not only in finding sound deviations in actual expenditures corresponding to the territorial peculiarities of production and the purchase prices, for the purpose of creating equal reproduction conditions, but also in furnishing assistance in removing a considerable portion of the rental incomes both

for the centralized net income of the state and also for redistribution among the agricultural enterprises.

The virtues and shortcomings of differentiated prices can and must be debated and yet at the same time one must recognize the fact that during a given stage in the development of agricultural production and in the absence of a generally recognized system for evaluating land and other resources, they are most effective. When completing a cost evaluation for all production resources, differentiated and accounting prices yield their leading role to rent and fixed payments.

In the process of gradually converting over to common prices, a great functional load is imposed upon the accounting prices, which appear as a planning lever for taking into account and making reimbursement for the socially required expenditures. Their use under conditions involving inter-farm cooperation and agroindustrial integration is making it possible to take into account those expenses which develop in an objective manner during the stage of simple reproduction. This is especially important in the case of specialization by stages or technological specialization, wherein the interrelationships of cost accounting enterprises are viewed as commodity-monetary relationships, with the leading one being an integrator-enterprise which sells the products directly to the state.

The system of contractual (accounting) prices can be supplemented by rent payments or fixed grants for enterprises which operate respectively under objectively good or bad conditions.

Further improvements in planning and its efficiency will be greatly dependent upon the development of and improvements in the principle of democratic centralism. "Democratic centralism is a tested principle for organizing all life in a socialist society" stated Yu.V. Andropov, "It makes it possible to combine successfully the free creativity of the masses with the advantages of a single system for scientific management, planning and administration (KOMMUNIST, 1983, No. 3, p 19).

The role played by the centralized principle at the upper level of APK administration is constantly increasing, since it is precisely here that balanced rates of development are defined for all of its branches and an efficient combination of branch and territorial planning implemented.

Improvements in inter-branch relationships require definite proportionality in their development. V.I. Lenin emphasized the fact that constant and conscious supportive proportionality in reality signifies an orderly system. Proper order produces the greatest results under the conditions of a self-adjusting system (ideally, the national economic APK should be just such a system and this is the result of an efficiently functioning economic mechanism. In other words -- the reality of assigning and fulfilling the plan is determined by the effectiveness of the cost accounting methods for production management.

In this regard, more and more importance is being attached to further improving the commodity-monetary relationships and to taking into account more fully the law of value in the system of economic laws. As is known, K. Marx viewed the

category of value as an attitude of people and not as an element of bookkeeping accountability. Over the past two decades, a great amount of attention has been given to a quantitative expression of the law of value through prices. Such an approach is oriented somewhat towards the consumer, it does not take demand into account, it is extremely rigid and it requires severe limitations, which are introduced into the plan with the aid of natural indicators.

Although severe centralized planning proved its worth during the war and post-war periods, it nevertheless requires improvements at the present time. K. Marx wrote that the law of value takes shape finally in monetary form. This presupposes, as a variant, the conversion over to definite stages with regard to the value forms for the plan, that is, to a higher qualitative level while taking into account the demand and market conditions. Planning is carried out not from the standpoint of production but from the standpoint of the consumer.

Under the conditions imposed by public ownership of the means of production, commodity-monetary relationships manifest themselves as being according to plan and their effectiveness is dependent upon whether or not they stimulate fulfillment of the plan. Such planning, based upon a combination of price and natural indicators, presupposes more extensive use of all elements of the economic mechanism and improvements in the significance and true value of the ruble.

Improvements in APK planning must pass through a number of sequential stages and this makes it possible to carry out checks on the manner in which corrections are being introduced into the planning system and also to train suitable personnel. During the first stage, the plans made available to oblasts, krays and republics should ideally be limited to the volumes for shipments beyond their limits, after having presented the local organs of management with more extensive economic powers for ensuring that the local population is provided with field crop husbandry and animal husbandry products. During the second stage -- to ensure a priority for the cost accounting methods associated with producing the products required for the consumer and for the state.

In speaking in behalf of expanded independence for enterprises in economic matters, V.I. Lenin considered that the "conversion of state enterprises over to so-called cost accounting operations is inevitably and inseparably associated with the new economic policy and in the near future this type will become the predominant type if not the only such type" (Complete Works, Vol. 44, pp 342-343). In the process, he emphasized "...with maximum freedom for maneuvering, with a strict check being carried out on the actual successes in raising production and profitability, with the best and most skilled administrators being selected in a very serious manner..." (ibid, p 345).

Improvements in the economic mechanism assumes an intensification in the role played by the various types of agreements or contracts. A direct contract, as the most promising lever for planned control over the development of the APK branches, must exert influence on the producers of the means of production and also upon the objects of consumption. In contracts for the delivery of means

of production, the specific nature of the local conditions and the farming and animal husbandry systems in use must be taken into account in a very strict manner.

A contractual system used at a given stage and at various APK levels is still not an effective instrument for regulating inter-branch relationships owing to the diverse interests of the partners, the planned tasks are not always sound ones, the penalties for violations are negligible, there is too much willingness to maintain good relations with the suppliers even in the face of shortages, the absence of legal support for a contract for the full volume of losses, insufficient personal responsibility or interest in meeting the deadlines set forth in a contract and so forth.

V.I. Lenin believed that responsibility for the profitability of enterprises must be borne by all members of the administration for trusts and enterprises which converted over to cost accounting (see: Complete Works, Vol. 54, p 150), that is, we have in mind here personal responsibility. A 12 August 1983 decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet stipulates that manual and office workers bear material responsibility for damage which they caused in the amount of the actual damage but not more than one third of their average monthly earnings.

Obviously, in addition to including in a contract a statement concerning the inevitability of personal material responsibility, influence must also be exerted on the material incentive fund and the wage fund when the contracts are violated.

The mentioned measures are reflected in the above mentioned decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Improvements in the Economic Interrelationships of Agriculture With Other Branches of the national economy." Great changes will be introduced into the existing system for planning and utilizing the profits of those enterprises and organizations that provide services for agriculture. This will make it possible to increase considerably the interest of these enterprises and organizations in achieving high final results in the production of agricultural products and for raising their material and legal responsibility for quality and timeliness in supplying agriculture with products of a production-technical nature and for services rendered.

During the first stage, the concept of the economic mechanism in the sphere of finances and credits must call for improvements in the distribution and use of budgetary and credit resources and during the second stage -- the introduction of a system of payments for the types of budgetary resources (with the exception of special construction projects), the presentation of credit in accordance with the first requirement, with the guarantee of return and the presence of a contractual organization and priority in the issuing of credit to those farms which can ensure the most efficient use of such credit.

The financing and issuing of credit for capital expenditures of the APK branches should ideally be concentrated in the same hands and in the same bank. In any case, this will make it possible to utilize the available resources in a more concentrated and efficient manner and to increase control over them. At the

present time, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR Ministry of the Fruit and Vegetable Industry are being financed by Gosbank and the USSR Ministry of Procurements, the USSR Ministry of the Food Industry and the USSR Ministry of Trade -- by Stroybank.

The program for achieving an intensive type of reproduction is directly associated with intensifying the cost accounting methods. Their introduction (that is, the conversion over to managing production more and more by means of internal savings) requires a simultaneous solution for the problem of logistical support. In view of the fact that as a result of diverse natural, economic and other conditions, considerable differences always take place in the resultant indicators of enterprises (which in the final analysis are manifested in the amount of profit obtained), a need arises for differentiated logistical support. If this is not available -- the stimuli for efficient work will be lost. A system of payments, taxes and so forth can smooth out the problem, but it will not eliminate it. It would be better for an operating enterprise (all other conditions being equal) not only to stimulate its workers but also to have more favorable conditions for logistical support and this is fully possible with decentralized supply. At the RAPO level, this signifies that the requirements of those solvent enterprises which are providing a maximum increase in output and profit per unit of resources invested must be satisfied first of all. Improvements in the level of management for low profitability enterprises can be achieved by means of the centralized funds of RAPO.

The economic mechanism of the APK must be directed towards maximizing the final product, with adequate effectiveness for the assigned rates of reproduction. This can be achieved both through efficient work by all of the constituent elements of the APK (ideal variant) and also by differentiation of the effect depending upon the availability of resources, social order, production priorities and development of the particular branch.

In solving the problems concerned with wages and bonuses, further improvements must be realized in the effectiveness of the system of private and public interests. Progress in the level achieved in production relationships and their effect on growth in productive forces will be greatly dependent upon a continuous system of economic interests of an effective economic mechanism that is directed towards achieving the final results.

When converting over to normative planning for the wage fund and to extensive use of the brigade contract method in all branches of the APK, stern limitations on staff scheduling should be rejected. Even in the case of retaining the existing wage fund, this will make it possible, through the introduction of an extensive system of additional payments for having more than one profession, to alleviate the personnel problem.

A more effective system must be developed for coordinating branch interests with the final indicators of the APK, a system which will be based upon the principles of material interest and responsibility. One variant for merging the collective interests of all spheres of the APK with public interests is that of employing the economic stimulation funds, especially the material incentive funds, the norms for which must be coordinated with growth in output. It appears advisable to form common material incentive funds for the APK, centralizing in them an appropriate portion of the profits of all of its spheres. Their further expansion by spheres and branches should ideally be

carried out taking into account the fulfillment of contractual obligations based upon norms developed earlier, norms which have only low limits.

The minimum amount of material incentive funds is computed for the planned volume of final output and is not limited to the upper limit, thus creating in this manner stimuli for all spheres of the APK in the production of the maximum amount of final output with minimal expenditures of labor and resources.

In the concept for the economic mechanism of the APK, an exceptionally great role must be played by legal regulation of economic relationships, which must ensure strict discipline and order. Complications arise here in connection with frequent violations of delivery contracts, weak effectiveness of sanctions and the existence in addition to the statute on deliveries approved by the USSR Council of Ministers of other special delivery conditions approved by USSR Gossnab. The legal service of the kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other enterprises of the APK requires unification. A need obviously exists for expanding the rights and obligations of state arbitration.

Improvements in the economic mechanism and its effectiveness are greatly dependent upon a complex of factors, many of which are of a non-economic nature. Here we have in mind mainly ideological support for the proposed measures, their scientific handling and for the personnel. The APK requires literate and cultured workers. Moreover, literacy is not a synonym for culture. According to an apt expression by V.I. Lenin: "...literacy by itself is not enough. We also require tremendous improvements in culture" (Complete Works, Vol. 44, p 170). "Is something lacking? A standard of culture and an ability to administer..." (ibid, Vol. 45, p 416). The vital nature of these Leninist utterances is of exceptional importance during a given stage in the functioning of the national economic APK. Definite reorganization is required for the training of highly skilled specialists and also the introduction of an APK program in all of the departments of agricultural and economic VUZ's which are turning out the necessary specialists. Specialists of the "APK planner-economist type" should be trained for the prevailing new forms of administration.

The reorganization of the economic mechanism is impossible in the absence of a combination of thorough theoretical, methodological and experimental studies. Such a combination promotes an accumulation of fundamental knowledge, which in turn makes it possible to obtain completely specific practical results. In his "Philosophical Notebooks," V.I. Lenin emphasized that: "Practical experience is more important than knowledge (theoretical), since in addition to its virtue of being general in nature it is also characterized by direct reality" (Complete Works, Vol. 29, p 195).

The experience accumulated throughout the country in improving the economic mechanism in the APK for administrative rayons can serve as a fine foundation for converting over to experiments at a higher regional level (oblast or kray), where the interbranch relationships are considerably more complicated.

The purpose of such experiments -- to achieve considerable growth in the volumes of final APK output through more extensive use of socio-economic factors. In the process, it should be emphasized once again that the economic

mechanism operates effectively on public production only when use is being made of an all-round approach in the development of all of its elements. In this regard, those rayons, oblasts (krays) and republics which carried out experiments on a continuous basis aimed at improving and raising the efficiency of the APK throughout the country must be singled out and strengthened.

> From the Editorial Board. The problems concerned with improving the economic mechanism, as set forth in this article, are certainly of a vital nature. At the same time, individual positions taken by the author are open to debate. In this regard, the Editorial Board requests the readers to share their opinions concerning the problems discussed.

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COUNTER SALE OF INDUSTRIAL CROPS IN UKRAINE REVIEWED

Moscow EKONOMIKA SEL'SKOGO KHOZYAYSTVA in Russian No 9, Sep 83 pp 24-28

/Article by A.M. Shpichak, Candidate of Economic Sciences and senior scientific worker at UkrNIIESKh: "Counter Sale of Products During Procurements of Technical Crops, Its Essence and Improvements"/

/Text/ The economic interrelationships of agricultural enterprises with the sphere of procurements and the processing of technical crops are based upon the use of prices, stimulating the work of leaders and specialists at agricultural enterprises at the expense of a procurement specialist and carrying out the counter sale of products.

The counter sale of products has adequate economic justification and plays an important role in the production of technical crops.

Let us examine those problems concerned with bartering for the sale to the state of the principal technical crops being cultivated in the Ukraine (sugar beets, sunflowers and spinning flax).

For sugar beets sold to the state in accordance with the appropriate norms and prices (reduced, wholesale and retail prices), the farms are supplied with sugar, pulp residue, molasses, mixed feed; for sunflower seed -- vegetable oil, mixed feed, oilcake; for flax products -- mixed feed and grain forage.

The counter sale of products for the sale of technical crops came about owing to a number of factors, the principal ones of which are the need for additional material stimulation for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the direct producers of the labor-intensive crops and particularly for increasing their production, and also the need for ensuring that those farms which grow technical crops on their own large land areas are supplied with feed resources. One of the principal reasons for implementing counter sales for definite types of products -- scarcities in those products. The elimination of scarcities creates real prerequisites for eliminating the counter sale of products. For example, the need for selling salt, textiles and tobacco for sugar beets and linen, cotton fabrics, bags, rope and other goods for flax products, as was done during the 1920's, has disappeared.

From this standpoint, we consider the statement by some economists that the bartering of state procurements of agricultural products should be viewed as

the development of a product exchange system to be unwarranted. It is our opinion that the need for beet growers to barter pulp residue disappears with the elimination of a feed shortage, since its acquisition will be based only upon commodity-money relationships. It bears mentioning in this regard that a counter sale of products is lacking in certain beet growing countries of the world. Moreover, it should be noted that the combining of the branches of beet production and cattle husbandry in one farm is not mandatory.

In the Ukraine, the counter sale of products for the sale of technical crops involves considerable volumes (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

Counter Sale of Sugar and Pulp Residue for Sugar Beets Sold To the State in the Ukrainian SSR

Years	Sugar			Pulp residue		
	Total sold, thous. of tons	Per Ton of Beets, in kilograms	Per hectare in quintals	Total Sold, millions of tons	Per Ton of Beets, in kilograms	Per hectare, in quintals
1977	286.7	5.65	160.5	31.7	62.5	177.5
1978	263.6	5.54	145.5	32.7	68.8	180.6
1979	226.5	5.27	126.3	27.3	63.6	152.0
1980	185.9	5.04	104.7	22.9	62.1	129.0
1981	159.0	4.91	91.3	21.3	66.5	122.3
1977-1981	224.3	5.33	125.8	27.2	64.7	152.6

It is apparent from the data in the Table and on the average for the 1977-1981 period, that 125.8 kilograms of sugar, 152.6 quintals of fresh pulp residue and 248 kilograms of mixed feed and molasses were sold to the farms in the form of counter sales per hectare of sugar beet sowing.

For sunflower seed, 3-5 kilograms of mixed feed and 6-10 kilograms of preferred sunflower oil were obtained per hectare. For flax products, the farms in the Ukrainian SSR were allocated 6.2 quintals of grain forage and mixed feed per hectare of spinning flax sowing. In the process, it was established that the republic's kolkhozes are being allocated approximately 9 quintals of grain for grain forage per hectare of grain crops. Thus the counter sale of products in connection with the sale of technical crops is promoting to a considerable degree the availability of feed for animal husbandry.

One shortcoming of the existing system of bartering lies in the fact that the norms for the sale of products are established based upon various criteria. Thus, some types are sold to the farms in the same amounts for plan and above-plan raw materials and others -- according to higher norms for above-plan output. Counter sales are stimulated first of all by over-fulfillment of the annual plans for procurements, secondly by raising the average level achieved for them during the past 3 years and, thirdly, during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan. The existing shortcoming in the counter sale of products derives from the fact that it is being carried out regardless of the quality of the raw materials procured by the state and without taking into account the schedules for the sale of the products.

Studies which we carried out in many raw material zones for the production of technical crops have established the fact that the principles for the counter sales of products must be standardized. We are of the opinion that it would be more correct to establish the norms for the sale of products not based upon over-fulfillment of the annual plan or for surpassing the level achieved for the preceeding 3 years, but rather based upon the raw materials sold to the state over and above the average level of procurements achieved during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan. This principle will make it possible, with sufficient objectivity, to employ incentive measures for increasing state procurements in a common plan with the existing economic stimuli (50 percent bonus added on to the price), aimed at increasing the production of goods.

The most progressive (ideal) means in our opinion may be that of stimulating the enterprises and workers into fulfilling an annual procurement plan that was established taking into account the specific production resources of each farm. However, such a method for handling a procurement plan is lacking and among the existing methodological methods we consider it justified to issue incentives for raising the level achieved during the 10th Five-Year Plan, particularly in view of the fact that the criterion for reliability in the existing methodological approaches for planning the state procurement volumes and the gross production volumes is a comparison of the plan indicators against the level achieved during the past five-year plan.

Improvements are required in the system of counter sales of products for sugar beets sold to the state from feed sowings. An additional payment in the amount of 50 percent is added onto the price for it and bartering is carried out in accordance with the norms established for above-plan beets. However, it is our opinion that such stimulation is inadequate. The turning over of beets from feed sowings causes damage to the feed resources of beet growing farms and thus the stimulation for the sale of such beets must be carried out by compensating for the feed. In this regard, pulp residue and molasses obtained from the processing of beets and 1.5-2.0 kilograms of mixed feed per quintal of raw material should be issued for the sale of beets.

For the sale of raw materials of a higher quality, we consider it necessary to establish raised norms for the counter sale of products. We cannot consider as fair a situation in which the same amount of sugar is sold at a reduced price for 1 quintal of beets of varying sugar contents. It is deemed advisable to sell 500 grams of sugar at a reduced price for 1 quintal of beets of the basic sugar content and for each percent of increase (decrease) in the sugar content, the norm for the sale of sugar should be increased (or decreased) by 6-7 percent.

In the case of sunflower seed sales, the counter sale of products should be carried out taking into account the quality of the raw material.

The norms for the counter sale of grain forage should ideally be differentiated depending upon the quality of the flax products being sold. Table 4 provides information on these norms, computed taking into account the grade numbers. When turning over flax products the quality of which is higher or lower than the indicated average numbers, the amount of grain forage (mixed feed) sold is raised or lowered respectively based upon the norm established for 1 quintal of fiber for a particular number. For example, 60 kilograms of grain forage are

sold for 1 quintal of Number 10 fiber, for one grade number -- 8 kilograms (80:10). Hence it is possible to compute the norm for the sale of grain forage for all of the grain products. Thus, for Number 16 flax fiber or higher and for stock and Number 2.5 straw or higher, the norm for the sale of grain forage per grade number should be increased by 50-80 percent.

TABLE 2

Proposed System for the Counter Sale of Grain Forage for the Sale of Flax Products, With Its Quality Being Taken Into Account

Type and Quality of Flax Product	Norms for Sale of Grain Forage for Flax Products Delivered To the State, kg.	
	For deliveries in the amount achieved on the average during the preceeding five-year plan	For deliveries in excess of level achieved during preceding five-year plan
1 quintal of Number 10 flax fiber	80	100
1 quintal of Number 1 stock	25	30
1 quintal of Number 1 straw	20	25

It is our opinion that the proposed system for counter sales of products, taking the quality of the raw materials into account, will stimulate the agricultural enterprises and direct executive agents into raising the sugar content of the industrial beets and the oil content of the sunflower seed, lowering the acidity number for the seed and so forth.

The opinion exists that a reduction should take place in the norm for the counter sales of products or that the sale of certain types of these products should be abolished. This applies in particular to abolishing the counter sale of sugar and monetary compensation for the difference between the retail and reduced price. This question arose in connection with definite difficulties associated with supplying the population with sugar and the existence of surpluses in sugar issued on the basis of bartering compared to the generally accepted norms for its consumption. It bears mentioning that on the average during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan and in connection with counter sales, approximately 400,000 tons of sugar were sold to the country's beet growing farms, including 250,000 tons in the Ukrainian SSR, or 4-5 percent of its production from domestic raw materials. Truly, with an increase in the level of mechanization and a decrease in the number of beet growers engaged in cultivating sugar beets, the amount of sugar being obtained by them on the basis of counter sales is increasing. The need for reducing the norms for the sale of sugar is justified from this standpoint. It is for this reason that it has decreased in a systematic manner. Thus, during the 1970's the norm amounted to more than 2.5 kilograms of sugar per quintal of beets delivered, in 1976 650 grams were issued to kolkhozes in the Ukrainian SSR and for overfulfillment of the contractual plan -- another 800-1,000 grams of sugar. Since 1980, as is known, the norm for the sale of sugar to kolkhozes has been established at 500 grams per quintal and for beet production teams -- another 500 additional grams for each quintal of overfulfillment of the procurement plan by a team. Since 1981 the amount of sugar being delivered in the form of

counter sales has decreased. Nevertheless, we feel that a further reduction or even abolishing counter sales in sugar would be premature. A reduction in the norms for the sale of sugar, especially in cases involving non-fulfillment of the state plans for beet procurements, adversely affects the work of workers out on the beet fields. It is appropriate to mention in this regard that the introduction in 1959 of only limited norms for the sale of sugar led to negative results in beet production. These limitations were abolished in 1960.

We cannot recognize as valid the opinion by specialists which holds that the abolishment of counter sales of sugar will lead to an increase in the state sugar resources. Our computations have shown that during the 1976-1980 period there was an average of approximately 42 kilograms of favorably priced sugar per beet grower in the Ukrainian SSR, with his family (4 individuals) being taken into account. Moreover, it was established that one resident in Kirovograd Oblast consumed an average of 41.6 kilograms of sugar during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, that is, within the limits of the all-union norms for consumption. This provides us with the basis for stating that a reduction in or the abolishment of counter sales in sugar will raise the need for increasing its supplies in the retail trade.

True, some beet growers attached to leading farms and teams which have achieved rather high beet yields are owed quantities of sugar on the basis of counter sales that surpass to a considerable degree the generally accepted consumption norms. However, consumer cooperation is purchasing this sugar on a voluntary basis. Thus, of 249,600 tons of sugar obtained by the republic's beet growers on the average during the 1976-1980 period, 23,100 tons were sold to consumer cooperation. In the future, more extensive use must be made of the practice of purchasing surplus sugar from the population. Towards this end, construction materials or other deficit goods should be sold to the beet growers in exchange for sugar at a reduced price.

It bears mentioning that both in the republic and throughout the country as a whole, the principle of monetary compensation by a sugar plant for sugar at a reduced price is not being employed on an extensive scale. Thus, although 23,100 tons of sugar were purchased by consumer cooperation in the Ukrainian SSR, on the average during the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, the amount of compensation was only for 400-420 tons, or less by a factor of 55.

Analysis has established the fact that monetary compensation for the counter sale of reduced price sugar, directly at a sugar plant, is being carried out to only a limited degree owing to economic factors. Actually, at a sugar plant the beet growers are paid for the reduced price sugar for the difference between the retail (78 kopecks per kilogram) and the reduced (38 kopecks per kilogram) price and also a trade reduction (10-12 percent) applied to the retail price. It is more profitable for the beet growers to obtain all of the reduced price sugar from a plant and to sell the surplus amounts through consumer cooperation, which does not withdraw the trade discount.

With the availability of sugar in the retail trade, it would be wrong to expect that the abolishment of counter sales will reduce its use for non-food purposes. The abolishment of counter sales in sugar is also considered to be undesirable

from the standpoint that during the summer months (a period devoted to the mass preparation of jellies and jams made from local fruits and berries) interruptions in the supply of sugar occur in the rural stores. In view of the existing shortcomings in the organization of fruit and berry procurements in the rural areas, the absence of the required amounts of sugar leads to an increase and great losses in the fruit and berry products.

A study on the economic feasibility of counter sales of oil for sunflower seed was carried out by us from the standpoint of analyzing the sources for supplying it to the farms and the channels for its use. The principal source for supplying the republic's kolkhozes with oil -- the processing of internally produced seed. During the years of the 10th Five-Year Plan, this source produced an average of 38,400 tons of oil and bartering -- 20,100 tons. In the process it was established that the principal amount of oil due on the basis of bartering for sunflower seed is not supplied to the farms in natural form. In the majority of instances, consumer cooperation acquires orders for obtaining the oil and pays the farms for the difference between its retail and reduced price.

Analysis has shown that the principal amount of oil (93 percent) is used for sale beyond the borders of a farm and only a small portion -- for wages (0.4 percent) and for intra-farm needs (6.6 percent).

Thus the counter sale of oil in natural form has ceased to play a substantial role. It is of great importance only for consumer cooperation in the carrying out of a commodity circulation plan.

The question of organizing counter sales of feed for sunflower seed warrants special attention. Prior to 1973, the sunflower seed that was sold was bartered for oilcake in the appropriate norms. Since 1973, mixed feed has been sold in place of oilcake. An analysis of actual data for farms in the Ukrainian SSR during the 1976-1980 period has established the fact that the substitution of mixed feed for oilcake has not reduced but rather increased feed deliveries to the farms in a conversion for feed units. Meanwhile, the supplies of digestible protein on the farms have declined. In the face of an overall protein deficit, the shortfall in it caused by abolishment of oilcake sales has had an adverse effect on the fulfillment of the state plans for seed procurements. The farms are striving to take advantage of the right extended to them to direct a portion of the seed for processing, upon the condition that the procurement plan is fulfilled. Thus the kolkhozes imeni XXI S"yezda KPSS and 60 Let Oktyabrya in Genicheskiy Rayon in Kherson Oblast, after fulfilling their state procurement plans for 1979-1980 by 106 and 108 percent, turned over 34.9 and 44.8 percent respectively of their gross seed production for processing.

The principal goal of the processing -- to obtain oilcake and sunflower oil. This is producing tremendous economic results, especially in connection with the sale to paint and varnish enterprises of oil that is deemed unsuitable for food purposes. Thus, the kolkhozes imeni XXI S"yezda KPSS and 60 Let Oktyabrya in Genicheskiy Rayon, on the average for 1979-1980 and per hectare of sunflower sowing, realized a net profit from the sale of oil that was several times higher than that obtained from the sale of seed to the state.

The bartering of oilcake for sunflower seed sold, introduced in 1982, is of great importance for eliminating the mentioned shortcomings in the system of state procurements. In the interest of further increasing the volume of state procurements of the seed, it is our opinion that the counter sale of oilcake should be established for products sold over and above the procurement level for the 10th Five-Year Plan. In addition, economic stimuli should be introduced in amounts which will make it profitable for the farms to sell seed to the state. In the case of kolkhozes and sovkhozes which do not have a seed procurement plan, the acceptance of seed from them should be carried out on a customer-supplied basis for processing purposes, with all of the oilcake processed from the mentioned seed and 50 percent of the vegetable oil obtained being returned to the farms.

The practice of redistributing the feed resources owed to some farms on the basis of counter sales for technical crops, among other farms in a region, must be forbidden.

From the standpoint of the existing system of counter sales of products, it is our opinion that improvements must be carried out in the system for computing the indicators for economic efficiency in the production of technical crops. When computing these indicators and also the indicator for the optimal level of profitability, it will be necessary to take into account the additional funds which farms obtain from the counter sales of products at reduced prices and the funds allocated by the procurement organizations for awarding bonuses to the farm leaders and specialists. It bears mentioning that these sums reach considerable amounts. Thus, when the republic's beet growing farms obtained 449,000 tons of sugar at a reduced price on the average for the 1976-1980 period, the difference between the retail and reduced price amounted to 94.8 million rubles, with 15.3 million rubles being issued in the form of bonuses by the procurement organizations. Thus the monetary receipts from beet production increased by 110.1 million rubles, or by 65 rubles per hectare of beet sowing. This money is used almost completely for wages for the beet growers.

We are of the opinion that the proposed improvement in counter sales for products will promote an increase in the production of technical crops and that the recommendations for improving the computation of the indicators of economic efficiency for their production are making it possible to reflect in a more objective manner the economics of the branches.

7026
CSO: 1834/35

ACCOUNT OF PRIVATE PLOT EXPERIENCE IN LITHUANIA, FOLLOW-UP COMMENTARY

Problems of Development Reviewed

Moscow SEL'SKAYA NOV' in Russian No 5, May 83 pp 12-13

/Article by Balis Karalyus, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences and senior scientific worker at the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture: "Not a Private Concern"/

/Text/ On Saturday and Sunday, instead of idly watching television, my wife, son and I went to visit our daughter and son-in-law, who work at a kolkhoz in Radvilishkskiy Rayon -- to help them with the planting and harvesting of potatoes, the transporting of farmyard manure and the procurement of hay. Our daughter has her own home and private plot. She and her husband raise 1-2 hogs for themselves and for us and also one for sale to the state. They deliver milk each day to the dairy point. They maintain a sheep (for shashlik and a sheepskin) and also chickens (we do not have to buy eggs in a store). I place my own barley at their disposal (I will discuss this factor again later) for feeding to the hogs, cows and chickens.

My daughter and son-in-law do not forget me when cutting up the hogs, sheep or even chickens. Thus I rarely visit a delicatessen. My comrades and friends also go into the countryside in the spring and summer -- to assist their own in carrying out the farm work and in turn the rural relatives supply the city-dwellers with high quality products in kind. This is typical of the Lithuanian countryside.

Many farms in the Lithuanian SSR have accumulated interesting experience in interacting with the LPKh's /private plots/ of kolkhoz members and manual and office workers.

At an experimental farm of the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Farming (where I work), private sowings of barley have been grown on crop rotation plan fields since 1971. As a specialist, the farm allocated 0.25 hectares of land for my use (0.5 hectares to workers). The farm sows barley on a portion of it -- 0.19 hectares -- and since 1982, winter wheat as well. I do not know where my barley and wheat are growing. Prior to the harvest, for seed and work to be carried out, I am required to make a small payment to the farm (in accordance with the production cost for the work to be carried out) -- and subsequently I will be supplied with barley and wheat from the farm's storehouse (more or less -- depending upon the harvest).

Many of us grow potatoes to satisfy our own personal requirements. And also out on the fields of the farm, which carries out all work commencing with loosening of the stubble and applying organic and mineral fertilizers and ending with spring tilling of the soil, planting of potatoes and combating diseases, pests and weeds. Each individual knows his own plot out on the potato field and harvests it himself.

At the Lishkyava Kolkhoz in Varenskiy Rayon, the private economy is also the object of attention by the specialists and leaders. The majority of the kolkhoz members, pensioners and workers in the sphere of services are maintaining not only hogs but also cows, heifers and sheep; potatoes and barley are being grown on the private plot land. It is understandable that machine operators are in high demand during the spring sowing and crop tending periods and also during the hay-making season. Gratitude is expressed to them in some areas in the form of "entertainment," or more precisely, vodka. At the Lishkyava Kolkhoz, according to its chairman Vitautas Chesnulyavichyus, this is a rarity. The farm's administration has defined the prices for services. An individual pays a visit to the bookkeeping office, submits a payment and is given a receipt for the plowing up of his plot, the planting of potatoes using a planter, the transporting of farmyard manure, the tilling of soil using a cultivator or for the combine threshing of barley. A machine operator receives payment from the operator of a plot in the form of these receipts and they form the basis for his earnings and for taking other indicators into account. If somebody, "out of the kindness of his soul," entertains a machine operator with wine or vodka, and it is difficult to conceal this in the rural areas, both will come to regret it: the work for which the operator paid will be done over again and the machine operator will be deprived of a bonus.

In this same Varenskiy Rayon, all of the residents of the settlements of Perloya and Nadzinge grow barley and potatoes on crop rotation plan tracts of the local experimental station. The system is as follows: having paid for the seed, fertilizer and work carried out, an individual receives pure and dry grain in the autumn. He procures his own straw or the amount required is delivered to him. Not every individual gathers up all of his straw; a portion remains for the public farms.

Immediately after the potatoes have been planted on the farm's fields, the personnel together with their equipment join in the work to be carried out in the private sector. Here the chemical processing of the fields must also be carried out by the farm's machine operators. The meadows and pastures surrounding the settlement of Perloya are divided up into plots on which the privately owned cows, heifers and sheep graze. These sectors are tended (fertilizer applications, restoration of grass cover) in the same manner as the public pastures.

The plots must be watched over in like manner as the cows and heifers. The owners of the private plots take turns in carrying out this work. Usually pensioners or students serve as shepherds. A family stands one "duty watch" per month.

Such an attitude towards the private economy in Varenskiy Rayon not only aids in amortizing the shortage of working hands and the aging of the rural

settlements, but in addition it also promotes the annual fulfillment and over-fulfillment of the procurement plans for potatoes, milk and meat on the private plots in the absence of a great amount of tension.

The procurement of hay is organized in a clever manner at an experimental farm of the Kadvilishkis Experimental Station. Here the cows also graze on cultivated pastures and the personnel are assigned tracts on which the grass has already been cut down for the purpose of procuring hay for the winter indoor maintenance period. But such tracts are assigned only to those who have their own frame rakes for drying the hay. It is not advisable for a large farm to dry hay on frame rakes, since this work is not mechanized and any family is capable of drying 2-3 tons of hay using 6-8 frame rakes. The quality of hay dried out on frame rakes is no worse than that dried out using forced ventilation with warm air.

Many similar examples can be found in our republic. However, many hindrances stand in the way of developing the private economy. And this is by no means a private concern.

For example, the state purchases large quantities of potatoes from the LPKh's and hence is interested in their quality and yields. But on a majority of the private plots the potatoes are grown using the methods employed by our grandfathers and great-grandfathers. The seed -- a mixture of various varieties. Nor is any system or degree of organization being used for strain renewal purposes. The land being used for potatoes is being fertilized using only farmyard manure or mineral fertilizers which are found in stores. Usually no crop rotation plan is employed on the private plots. This leads to the spread of diseases, pests and weeds. Nor is the situation any better with regard to the feed base and breeding work in private animal husbandry operations. In short, we are employing antiquated methods.

Yet we are living in a period in which any type of production operation must be carried out on a scientific basis. This applies also to private plots. Unfortunately, there is not one scientist at the scientific institutes who specializes in private plot affairs.

Each individual who manages a private plot is aware that even on the same plot the soil can vary in terms of nutrient content. And the private plots of individual owners differ to an even greater degree. In the absence of accurate information, fertilizer may not produce the desired results. However, one fact remains clear: agrochemical services for private plots are not included in the plans for agrochemical laboratories. Orchard workers and gardeners -- even in the city -- find themselves in the same situation.

And would it not be good if it were possible to send soil samples to a cost accounting subunit of an agrochemical laboratory and, after paying the required amount for analysis, obtain the necessary information and a recommendation -- as to how much and which fertilizers should be applied by the customer in behalf of his crop and whether it should be grown under a polyethylene film or outdoors.

It bears mentioning that the chemical plants which supply the mineral fertilizers for the so-called market fund indicate on the packages of urea,

ammophos, ammonium nitrate and other fertilizers how many grams of these fertilizers must be applied per square meter or to a pail of water for a foliar top dressing for certain crops, with no stipulation being made that the fertilizer dosage depends upon the nutrient content in the soil. They also pass over in silence the fact that one type of fertilizer in ineffective in the absence of others and that the ratio for the principal nutrients must be observed during fertilization. Quite often the nutrient percentages are omitted in the long formulas displayed on the packaging materials.

The scientific institutes are staffed with a sufficient number of skilled agrochemicsts who are capable of preparing sensible recommendations for the owners of private plots.

There is still one other detail. Quite often certain kolkhozes contrive to purchase their market fund fertilizers from Lithuanian and other republics. It is easier for a salesman to fulfill his financial plan and he encounters fewer problems when he is able to sell the fertilizer not in 3 kilogram bags but rather in dump trucks.

Or permit me to cite an example. This is now the sixth year that I have asked the manager of the farm store in our settlement to provide us with ground chalk or other lime materials suitable for liming the soil. Such requests have been futile. It turns out that the lime materials are being poured into paper bags at the plants, which subsequently rip apart while still at the bases. Thus the salesmen are neither ordering or receiving them. It is a cheap and dirty product and one which has only a negligible effect on the plan.

At a majority of the private plots, the seed being used consists of a mixture of different varieties of potatoes. At the same time, strain renewal work for vegetable and flower crops is organized rather well in Lithuania. The Lithuanian seed production farms even ship considerable amounts of high quality material for high reproductions to other republics. Why is it then that they cannot provide such service for the owners of private plots?

The saying "do not expect a good generation from poor seed" applies to animal husbandry operations, including those carried out on private plots. And the contribution made by these plots to state procurements is considerable: in many regions of the republic the LPKh's furnish one fifth of the meat and approximately one third of the milk. This contribution could be higher if a rural resident maintained only pedigree and regionalized strains of livestock, as is the case in the state and public sectors. However, more often than not the kolkhozes and sovkhozes make available for use on the private plots heifers, young bulls and young pigs which have already been culled out. It is obviously true that the individual tending of each cow benefits even culled out animals and yet a portion of them perishes and their productivity is not very high. Thus the owners of the plots become disillusioned.

The time has come for our animal husbandry farms to follow the example of our poultry factories: they are making high quality and regionalized strains of chicks available to all those desiring them.

For carrying out work on a private plot, it is considered highly desirable to have a miniature tractor with towing implements. But as yet such machines are rare. An intelligent solution was found at the Vishnyunay Kolkhoz in Prenayskiy Rayon: they are maintaining horses. Here the problem of tractive power for the LPKh's has been solved. It is obviously easier to organize the production of horse equipment than miniature tractors. Yes and there are no requirements for fuel and lubricating materials. However, many farms do not think too highly of horses.

Private plot vegetable growing, similar to public vegetable growing, "thrives" persistently under polyethylene film. One sees many temporary hothouses on the plots of rural and municipal residents in Kedaynskiy, Kaunasskiy and other rayons. And this is good. There are never too many early winter vegetables just as there are never too many flowers.

Owing to the fact that many residents of Kedaynskiy Rayon raise cucumbers in their hothouses, they are usually cheaper on the local kolkhoz market than in the vegetable stores. They are also shipped to neighboring oblasts and rayons.

But who can furnish advice as to where the owner of a heated or unheated hothouse can purchase the polyethylene film required for all vegetable growers? Or transparent paper for wrapping up winter and autumn flowers? They are not available in stores and thus the "black" market flourishes. The film is acquired through friends -- from funds assigned for construction, for the preservation of succulent feeds and for public vegetable production. It is difficult to understand why these materials cannot be procured at an acceptable price in farm or other stores.

There is still another question: why is it that early cucumbers, tomatoes and flowers cannot be purchased in large volumes at commission prices from the rural and municipal populations? The purchasing of surplus products is usually well organized during those years when the vegetables, potatoes, fruit, milk and meat are in short supply. But there are also years when the owner of a private plot must sell his surplus products himself at bazaars and at a cheaper price, despite the fact that in other regions these products are in short supply both in stores and in the kolkhoz markets. However, since the procurement specialists are able to fulfill their plans easily and even overfulfill them somewhat, they are not interested in searching for markets beyond the limits of the republic. And such interest should be present: it is not profitable to feed cabbage and apples to the cows and hogs.

Certainly, the surplus products could be shipped to the local kolkhoz markets, but this work is not appealing to all persons. In many cities the bazaars differ from those which were held during the last century by a metal chain link fence. Rain or snow, hot or cold -- the traders and their goods remained outdoors. In the autumn an individual would bring his apples and potatoes to the bazaar. A cold snap would set in -- the products would freez and lose their food value.

The commission stores, which must procure and sell surplus agricultural products, are also the last to be allocated facilities and quite often these facilities have weak refrigeration.

With regard to private plot animal husbandry operations, one fact must regrettably be noted: in the rural areas of Lithuania, with an acceleration taking place in the resettlement of rural residents from small farmsteads, a decrease is being noted in the number of livestock and poultry on the LPKh's /private plots/. The state is stimulating the resettlement from small farmsteads. However, after receiving a subsidy for resettlement, a kolkhoz member or pensioner does not always remain in the rural area. A considerable portion of them do not move to the central farmsteads of farms or to other large settlements, but instead they move to cities. Should such a process be paid for out of the state's pocket? Indeed, here is what happens: a former rural individual quite often helps a son or daughter living in the city to acquire a small machine and himself, instead of providing them with assistance in the form of products, stands in line at a delicatessen of vegetable store. The small farmsteads are disappearing with the passage of time and state assistance should be furnished only to those who move to rural settlements.

We cannot afford to tolerate the waste that is taking place in connection with our old housing fund. At two kolkhozes, I happened to witness the setting afire of two small farmstead structures and the area being leveled by a bulldozer. At the same time, in the collective gardens of cities, for example Kaunas and Vilnyus, "villas" are being built using modern construction materials. And why not purchase a home with a straw roof from an individual who is resettling and set it up in a collective garden? This is simply not the fashion at the moment and this is unfortunate.

Response of Republic Official

Moscow SEL'SKAYA NOV' in Russian No 10, Oct 83 p 19

/Article: "Not a Private Concern"/

/Text/ In an article published in Issue No. 5 of SEL'SKAYA NOV' for 1983 under the title "Not a Private Concern," the experience accumulated in developing the private economy in Lithuania was discussed.

The deputy minister of agriculture for the Lithuanian SSR V. Sankauskas replies to the Editorial Board.

The ministry has thoroughly examined the article by B. Karalyus entitled "Not a Private Concern" and considers the problems which he raised concerning development of the LPKh's /private plots/ to be quite urgent.

The author's critical comments regarding logistical supply, agrochemical services for the private plots and the organization of procurements of agricultural products among the population are correct and completely valid.

The ministry and rayon agroindustrial associations are undertaking additional measures aimed at eliminating these shortcomings and strengthening the interrelationships of public production with the private plots of citizens on a contractual basis.

At the same time, we are able to report that the private plots in the Lithuanian SSR are producing 2.2 times more gross output per rural resident

than the average for the country. Based upon the 1982 results and compared to the overall volume of state procurements, the proportions contributed by the private plots were as follows: milk -- 31 percent, meat -- 16.8, potatoes -- 38, fruit -- 72 percent. In a calculation per cow, 1,974 kilograms of milk were purchased.

The LPKh's are promoting work in the sphere of material production by housewives, pensioners, juveniles, more efficient use of production facilities, especially those located at small farmsteads, and also the additional feed resources offered by forest lands, roadside strips, unsuitable lands and the food scraps of rural farmyards.

The LPKh's are receiving constant assistance from public production. Approximately 60 percent of the grain crops of private plots is being grown on the crop rotation plan fields of kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other agricultural enterprises. The population is being provided with assistance in tilling the private plots, procuring feed and in obtaining pedigree livestock, young hogs and poultry and high quality seed.

A system has been created in the republic for organizing procurements among the population and the centralized shipping of livestock, milk and certain other products.

The author of the article has revealed in an objective manner the experience accumulated in the management of LPKh's on farms throughout the republic. However, not all of the problems raised in the article are within the competence of the republic organs; some of them must be resolved by the appropriate union departments.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Lithuanian SSR considers it advisable to create special subunits at the scientific research institutes for the purpose of carrying out a comprehensive study of the socio-economic aspects of LPKh's.

7026
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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSIDIARY FARMS IN DONETSK OBLAST

Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Jun 83 p 2

[Article, under the rubric "Development of Subsidiary Farms", written by V. Mokrishchev, TRUD correspondent: Evaluating Our Enthusiasm"]

[Text] Some ten years ago the number of subsidiary farms in Donetsk Oblast that were run by enterprises could have been counted on the fingers of one's hands. Now there are 155 of them. Not every rural rayon produces as much meat and early vegetables as these agricultural sections of plants, factories and oblast organizations. And many of the sections have passed through initial development stages. The time has come to sum up the figures, to talk about the cost to these agricultural sections for a quintal weight gain per pig or to raise a rooster or rabbit.

The overall picture is quite varied. The subsidiary farm of the Kramatorskiy trust of cafeterias and restaurants spends R135 per quintal weight gain of pigs. Subsidiary farms in the cities of Torez, Snezhnoye and Shakhtersk spend at least R300, and in places the cost is more than R1,000. A rabbit on the farm belonging to the department of workers' supply [ORS] at the Makeyevskiy Metal Works costs about R69 to raise. Unit cost per pig on farms in Selidovo are one-half of the average cost on farms of the administration of workers' supply [ORS] of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry [Minugleprom].

Why are these figures so different? To answer that question I first travelled to Kramatorsk, to those who are enjoying success. V. Bul'benko, director of subsidiary agriculture, took me through the well-built and highly mechanized sheds for pigs and poultry, through the feed processing assembly, past the garage where combines, tractors and trucks stood ready to roll, then talked about weight gains, interspersed the conversation with profit rates, figures and periods necessary to cover expenses. And through all of this it was apparent that he was proud of his farm.

There is one farm for almost the entire 250,000 people in Kramatorsk and it really is a model farm. Not all farms in the neighboring villages can match such daily weight gains--400 grams per day. And half of the feed does not consist of high-calorie food wastes. High figures are just fine, but what does it cost? Even in 1979 the trust's farm showed a loss of R150,000. Then it became profitable; last year there was a R51,000 profit. And again, what was the price?

Not too long ago the trust of cafeterias and restaurants began raising pigs--bought on the side--on kolkhozes and sovkhozes, almost 12,000 animals a year. The pigs were shipped in even from Poltava and Zhitomir oblasts. Shipping costs alone amounted to R50-60,000.

"And that's not the most important thing", explained the farm's senior livestock specialist, M. Balaban. "The pigs lose 4-5 kg in shipping, then it takes them more than a month to start gaining weight, this because they must adjust to different feeds, water, the facilities. And that's not all. Pigs weighing 50-100 kg show the greatest weight gains. Kolkhozes give us hogs weighing more than one quintal, and we have these animals put on an additional 30-40 kg, mostly fat. It's useless and uneconomic work."

Those on the Kramatorsk farm have established a good-sized herd of sows. Each year up to 5,000 piglets are born and raised.

"And here are the figures", as was explained to me at the cafeteria trust. "We used to ship in and then feed 12,000 pigs a year, a total weight gain of 370-380 tons. Now we start with our own piglets, some 5,000 or so, and obtain more than 450 tons of meat. And the quality of the meat is much better."

We must point out that there isn't much agricultural land in Donetsk Oblast. The farm in Kramatorsk alone has 1,024 hectares, while the remaining 154 secondary farms in the oblast have but 3,000 hectares. This is one hundred times less than the land available in neighboring Rostov Oblast. Those in Donetsk must then rely on other sources for supplies of feed and on food wastes.

Noteworthy in this regard is the subsidiary farm of the Selidovskiy ORS in the UkSSR Minuglepromj food wastes supply 75-78 percent of their feed needs. And most of the wastes are from domestic use. Housing offices and administrations in the city of Selidovo provide a thousand tons more of food wastes than in the city of Torez which has 20,000 more residents. And those in Selidovo have managed to attain daily weight gains for their animals of up to 450 grams. They have also begun to breed pigs.

It is important to point out that pig handlers here have the highest salary of any subsidiary farm of the UkSSR Minuglepromj per unit costs for a quintal of meat are the lowest here.

There are other examples in the oblast of a careful, business-like approach to setting up agricultural sections. The huge livestock facility located right on the grounds of Azovstal' also supplies most of its own animal feed; daily weight gains here are more than one-half kg. This means the successful resolution of the vital and concrete task--to improve the diet of metal workers in the plant's cafeterias.

I happened to arrive at the agricultural section of the Torezantratsit industrial association at that very moment when they were totalling up last year's losses and computing those for the current year. And I have yet to see such a farm. It is scattered about in small parts. The mine enterprise

feeds 15-20 sheep in an unused kolkhoz shed that is leased, while hogs are kept in a primitive, makeshift structure right in a courtyard together with household articles. Here are 30 pigs, there 10 and somewhere else 7. The 28 mines and other subdivisions of the association keep 648 pigs and 350 head of cattle, an average of 35 animals. Outlays on labor, inputs, feed and materials are startling. If the pigs were fed in one place and if there was even the most basic machinery, then four pig handlers and three for sheep could do the work. Well, let's even throw in a couple of watchmen and three-four workmen. At present there are more than 100 workers, and that's not counting those working two jobs. This is the first problem. Secondly, it is difficult under such conditions to maintain sanitation and to provide basic veterinary care. It is not by chance that the farm of the association's administration of material and technical supply, where 54 pigs are kept, saw the death of 25 animals by Sumsirovav murrain; payments for the following have decreased: amortization of debt or rent of facilities, wages for pig and sheep handlers and watchmen, inputs of feed, electricity, water, etc. It turns out that one kg of meat has a production cost of R10. And such conditions raise much doubt about state standards for the "golden" fattening process. Just take a look and see what a tightrope-walking act is performed here. The mines purchase pigs from sponsoring kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The animals are taken from favorable conditions to which they are accustomed to there that are unfamiliar. Feed grains are also obtained from these farms, hundreds of tons. Food wastes make up 15 percent of the nutritional value in feed mixes, and even that is not everywhere.

For many enterprises the experience of having its own farm is a new one, and there are many different types of problems. But the means to solving a difficult problem are well known. Directors of enterprises in the cities of Torez, Snezhnoye and Shakhtersk were brought to Donetsk for a seminar at the Zasyad'ko mine. They weren't even prepared to copy their colleagues' methods for setting up an agricultural section. But the Zasyad'ko mine, which up until then had not been engaged in vegetable production or in livestock, took up the new undertaking in a very dedicated manner, not an impulse and not by tossing money to the wind. Mostly the mine used those strengths that a large industrial enterprise has: a high degree of organization of modern production and production-line labor techniques. First they built greenhouses with enough space that, all through the winter and spring, there were fresh vegetables in the mine's cafeterias. Now, not too far from its rest home at the Slavyanogorskiy resort, the mine is building a large livestock facility, one building for 500 sheep and a pigsty for 1,000 hogs.

It is true not every enterprise can undertake large construction projects on its own. But each one can have a greenhouse or even an apiary, even a fish hatchery if there is a reservoir on its own or on neighboring land. Yes, that's also a subsidiary farm. And whoever wants to set up poultry or pig production must have, according to specialists, large mechanized farms, preferably of their own construction. But the path of cooperation allows one to proceed more directly. Smaller enterprises can combine their forces and inputs, just as was done in the cities of Konstantinovka, Druzhkovka and Artemovsk, or in the Kirovskiy rayon of Donetsk where the coke plant, toy factory and the worsted spinning mill are jointly building a large facility for sheep.

There are many such instructive examples. Why don't all enterprises use this valuable experience in their decisions? In conferences one hears that enterprises are given recommendations and normative documents by sector. But should these orient the enterprises? In addition it is apparent that from the ministerial level it is difficult to foresee locally developing circumstances. Local organs have a much better view of the problems and difficulties of subsidiary farms, the net results. Who then can caution against disproportions, if not these local organs together with labor unions, can expand the field of experience?

Setting up agricultural sections and, in so doing, fulfilling the Food Program, it is important to avoid superficial solutions. Each step here must be considered, calculated from the point of view of efficiency. Only in this way will success be attained.

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CSO: 1-24/574

PRODUCTION OF SMALL TRACTORS FOR PRIVATE PLOTS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 19 Oct 83 p 2

/Article: "A Small Tractor"/

/Text/ Many readers of SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' are asking when the production of orchard and garden tractors, for use on private plots, will be organized. We asked the general director of the Gruzsel'khozmash Scientific Production Association B. Choniyu to answer this question.

In order to cultivate their private plots in a normal manner, procure sufficient feed for their livestock and tend their plots in the proper manner, the rural residents must expend a great amount of time and effort. Meanwhile, agricultural production is becoming more intensive and the work being carried out on the public fields and farms consumes an entire working day. On busy days during the sowing and harvesting campaigns, the kolkhoz members and sovkhoz workers often lose track of the time. Very little time remains for conscientious workers to work on their private plots. Moreover, a worker needs time for reading a book, watching television, engaging in sports or spending time with his family. Light mechanization can be of assistance in solving this serious social problem.

According to data supplied by Tsentrosoyuz /Central Union of Consumers' Societies/, the minimal requirement for obtaining such mechanization is approximately 2 billion rubles. The equipment being produced today is not satisfying the consumers. Moreover, the assortment of such equipment is extremely limited. We still lack the experience required for producing modern motorized units and small tractors with accompanying sets of implements. Such experience has been accumulated in a number of foreign countries. However, it is accumulating all too slowly in domestic machine building.

The system of machines for the all-round mechanization of agricultural production for the 1981-1990 period includes a special motorized unit with a rating of 5-7 horsepower and a set of 13 types of agricultural implements for use with it on small tracts and a small wheeled tractor with a rating of 10-12 horsepower and a set of nine types of implements. The Kutaisi Small Tractor Plant has been tasked with developing these small items of mechanized equipment and mastering their production. In addition, licenses have been

purchased from the Italian Gol'doni and Acme Firms for producing the motorized units, engines and implements used with these tractors.

A number of leading institutes and design bureaus of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building have been licensed for producing the machines. They have already prepared the appropriate technical documentation and they have selected and coordinated with the foreign firms the domestic materials which will be used for creating these basically new items of equipment.

Owing to the vast nature of this program and the limited amount of time available for carrying it out, several of the branch's industrial enterprises have been enjoined to participate in the work. This includes the Kutaisi Plant for Motorized Units, the Tbilissi Gruzsel'mash Plant, the Rostov Krasnyy Aksay Production Association, the Lidsel'mash Plant, the Kursk Plant for Tractor Small Parts and the Odessapochvomash Production Association. Certain other enterprises of the branch have been tasked with producing individual component units and parts.

Our association must carry out work on such problems as the use of light mechanization equipment and their technical servicing. We must furnish recommendations on the use of motorized units and small tractors in other branches of the national economy, such as the municipal economy and highway construction. Finally, we must participate actively, together with the enterprises and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, in ensuring the production of the first experimental-industrial batch of small-scale equipment.

7026
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FORESTRY AND TIMBER

TIMBER UTILIZATION MISMANAGEMENT IN RSFSR AREAS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Oct 83 p 3

/Article by O. Andreyeva: "At a Departmental Crossroad"/

/Text/ Much has been written about cedar. Our newspaper has dedicated more than one article to this subject. At the beginning of this past summer, in response to a request by readers, an inspection brigade of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carried out a check on the manner in which a special decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on improvements in the all-round utilization and protection of cedar forests, adopted 5 years ago, was being carried out. The reports received concerning this operation provided information on the management of valuable forests in the Altay, Krasnoyarsk, Maritime and Khabarovsk Krays and in Tomsk and Novosibirsk Oblasts. Today we are publishing a review of the responses to the action taken by the newspaper.

The RSFSR Minister of Forestry A.I. Zverev reported that the material "was examined during a meeting of the ministry's board. The chief forester of the Khabarovsk Forestry Administration G.M. Katashonov was reprimanded for failure to undertake the measures required for preventing violations of forestry legislation and also for the absence of strict control over the work of the timber procurement specialists. Deputy Minister R.V. Bobrov went to the Khabarovsk and Maritime Forestry Administrations for the purpose of examining those questions associated with the cedar problem."

Was this a business-like reaction to the criticism? Beyond any doubt. But this impression is overshadowed by one circumstance. Almost 4 months have passed since the publication date. The deputy minister obviously returned from his temporary duty trip some time ago. What were the results of this trip? Unfortunately, we have not been informed.

The editorial board received a reply signed by the procurator for the Khakass Autonomous Oblast V.K. Gavrilenko. He reported as follows: seven leaders of enterprises were issued warnings for having violated the rules for forest utilization. Criminal proceedings were instituted against five foremen at the Abaza Forestry Farm. The procurators in those regions in which enterprises which tolerated violations were located were asked to intensify their vigilance in the interest of ensuring the carrying out of those laws aimed at protecting the forest reserves.

This measure is truly necessary. There are still too many economic executives who strive mainly to carry out the plan in terms of "cubic meters" and at any cost, thus displaying a consumer's attitude towards the natural resources. In particular, the material revealed one fact: notwithstanding the strict limitations that are presently being placed upon the felling of cedar trees, more than 2 million cubic meters of this wood are being procured annually in the Maritime Kray. The last 33,000 hectares of pure far eastern cedar tracts along the upper reaches of the Bol'shaya Ussurka River can still be saved by the statute concerning the nut-producing zone. But while the departmental arguments continue, the timber procurement specialists are already laying down a road here. Those who participated in the inspection stated that the lumberjacks in Khabarovsk Kray are carrying out their work with no regard for nature.

It would seem that their actions should be scrutinized very closely by Minlesbumprom /Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Wood Processing Industry/. However, Deputy Minister Yu.A. Yagofnikov, in his reply to the publication, not only passed over these facts in silence but, judging from the tone of the letter, he did not view them as providing even the slightest cause for concern. "For the country as a whole, the calculated felling areas in cedar forests are being utilized 25.5 percent, with the fluctuations in some regions ranging from 4 to 74 percent," he reported.

According to branch statistical data, this is truly so. The main trump card being used by the timber procurement specialists for fending off all counter-arguments -- the calculated felling areas. This concept implies the following: during a definite period of time the amount of timber being felled must equal the amount being grown. Formally, the fellings are almost always carried out on this basis. But actually?

"Instead of the most valuable tracts being cut down" commented the authors of the inspection team, "quite often the cedar tracts include lands on which cedar trees constitute less than one fifth of the plantings. If such timber was truly cut down, there would hardly be any alarming voices raised in its defense. But the fact of the matter is that every attempt is made to obtain the very best, to skim the cream off the top."

Here a digression is necessary. A calculated felling area was established when the timber industry took its first steps in the regions of Siberia and the Far East. The forest organizers, crudely speaking, cheated the cedar tracts, such that for every three cedar trees on them there were seven trees of different strains. And the fact that more often than not the cedar tracts are inaccessible reserve forests is not taken into account. The taiga is considered to be both boundless and oppressive. And a truly astronomical figure appeared. If it is corrected by raising the growth rate in cedar fellings and converting its tracts into nut production zones, then the effect against the overall background of "reserves" would be extremely negligible. Under the cover of "averaged-out" figures, the procurement specialists cut down easily accessible pure tracts and on mixed tracts they took a vllume of cedar, leaving the low-value deciduous strains behind.

In the opinion of a number of specialists, the time has come for considering cedar growth only in a zone of industrial procurements. At first glance, this proposal is not indisputable. Nevertheless, it warrants fixed attention. It

is believed that it makes considerable sense from an economic standpoint. Although they are not felling many trees at the present time generally speaking, nevertheless the work is being carried out in the most easily accessible areas. Understandably the procurement specialists are under an obligation to devote thought to procuring more wood with less expenditures. But should we be guided only by today's interests? And what will be done here tomorrow? Indeed, one cannot return here for another wood crop for another 150-200 years! Nor can we overlook the fact that the tracts available today are required for protecting the soil and the purity of the air, for harvesting nuts and obtaining valuable fur-bearing animals and unique medicinal plants.

In short, life itself is convincing: a more sound scientific approach is required in each specific instance. But, strange as it seems, USSR Gosleskhoz /State Committee for Forestry of the USSR Council of Ministers/ and the research and forestry planning institutes have not devoted any attention to the newspaper action and have not even attempted to clarify the essence of the problem or the argument centering around cedar. It is as though the problem of protecting this valuable wood is beyond the range of its concerns.

To some it may seem that we are delving too deeply into private branch problems. By no means. Indeed this is the chief misfortune of cedar today -- various departments wish to make use of it, thinking mainly of their own interests. Meanwhile the time is finally at hand for joining efforts. "The time has come" wrote the authors of the material, "to convert over to creating multiple-branch farms in a persistent manner and on an extensive basis, farms which provide for utilization of the gifts of the cedar taiga and tending it and also the necessary tree fellings."

Let us return to the reply by Yu.A. Yagodnikov. He reports that "the ministry is prepared to examine appropriate recommendations for the creation of such farms within the USSR Minlesbumprom system. And we ask what is preventing this from being done? Moreover, what has prevented it from being done in the past? We repeat that 5 years have passed since the publication of the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers that called precisely for the development of all-round farms. And only recently has Minlesbumprom created within the structure of the Tomlesprom Association, and here we should note in brackets that is was accomplished under pressure by the local party and soviet organs, the Suyginskiy Experimental Timber Combine. "This enterprise" writes the deputy minister to the editorial board, "in addition to its industrial activities, will in 1983 commence carrying out forestry measures and other experimental-production operations concerned with the all-round management of a farm." Thus it is truly better late than never!

There remains only very little more to be said. It was only logical to assume that the first to respond to the newspaper's action would be those who were the direct recipients of the criticism. In particular, the leaders of the timber procurement associations in the Maritime Kray, Khabarovsk Kray, Khakass Autonomous Oblast and the Altay Forestry Administration. But although 4 months have elapsed since the publication date, not one of the above has replied to the editorial board. It has been said that silence is a sign of agreement. But even if they recognize their own operational shortcomings, such a position of passive agreement to criticism will in no way placate either the readers or the newspaper.

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